

Ethics and Policy Issues in Computing

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Introductions

- Why I want to teach this class
- Who I am
- Who are you and why are you here?

Anyone know the Drunken Pirate?



- A 25 year old woman had this picture and title on her MySpace page
- She was dismissed from student teaching program, denied her teaching credential

Stross, R. How to Lose Your Job on Your Own Time.
New York Times, December 30, 2007.

The Dumbest Generation?

- According to recent reports from government agencies, foundations, survey firms, and scholarly institutions, most young people in the United States neither read literature (or fully know how), work reliably (just ask employers), visit cultural institutions (of any sort), nor vote (most can't even understand a simple ballot). They cannot explain basic scientific methods, recount foundations of American history, or name any of their local political representatives. What do they happen to excel at is each other. They spend unbelievable amounts of time electronically passing stories, pictures, tunes, and texts back and forth, savoring the thrill of peer attention and dwelling in a world of puerile banter and coarse images.
 - Bauerlein, M. (2008). *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes our Future*. Penguin Group, NY, NY. (cover notes).

Campaigning Online

- “Were it not for the Internet, Barack Obama would not be president. Were it not for the Internet, Barack Obama would not have been the nominee” (quoting Arianna Huffington)
- “The campaign’s official stuff they created for YouTube was watched for 14.5 million hours. To buy 14.5 million hours on broadcast TV is \$47 million.” (quoting Joe Trippi)
- “This medium demands authenticity, and television for the most part demanded fake. Authenticity is something politicians haven’t been used to.” (quoting Joe Trippi).

Claire Cain Miller, How Obama’s Internet Campaign Changed Politics.
New York Times, Nov. 7, 2008.

Better Than Paper?



- Failing
- Rebooting
- Incorrect counting
- Incorrectly programmed

Clive Thompson, *New York Times*, January 6, 2008

Creative or Criminal?

- Bush/Blair: Endless love

Costly Mistakes

- Computers are in *everything*
 - Many cars have 30+ computers
 - Soon, your clothes, glasses, refrigerator, etc., will have computers
 - Complexity → failures
 - Everyone is a programmer

Emphasis on Research and Communication

- No Exams
- “Re-search”
 - Plagiarism vs. bad citations
 - Good citations help you
 - Good sources are important
- Final Paper addresses issue
- How to do research
- Push you to be explicit, transparent, consistent, and articulate
- Tools, methodologies, frameworks

Logistics

- Discussions
- Participation
- HW
- Debates
- Project
- Readings
- I am an “expert” in only some of these topics
- Blackboard
 - Turn in work
 - Discussion board
 - E-mail list
- Webpage

Course topics

- Course web site

CMU Policy on Plagiarism

- *Plagiarism* includes, but is not limited to, failure to indicate the source with quotation marks or footnotes where appropriate if any of the following are reproduced in the work submitted by a student:
 - A phrase, written or musical.
 - A graphic element.
 - A proof.
 - Specific language.
 - An idea derived from the work, published or unpublished, of another person.

Discussion / Q&A
