IT PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Introduction

- Software is a unique type of product in terms of how it is distributed.
- Software usually has to be installed onto the machine before it is used.
- Software is also a type of intellectual property and consent or approval has to be sought before it can be used.
- The creator of these intellectual properties is at liberty to stipulate how their creation may be used.

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Intellectual Property

- A product of the intellect that has commercial value,
- including copyrighted property such as literary or artistic works,
- and ideational property, such as patents, business methods, and industrial processes.

Intellectual Property rights

- Intellectual property rights are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds.
- They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.

Intellectual Property Rights Termilogies

- Plagiarism – using somebody else's work and claiming it as your own
- Copyright Law – protection of the author's original work
- Fair Use – reproduction of materials for educational and research purpose
- Software piracy – theft and illegal reproduction of software
- File swapping – exchange of digital materials like audio and video over the Net without the owner's permission

Intellectual Property rights

- Intellectual property rights are customarily divided into two main areas:
  - Copyright and rights related to copyright.
  - Industrial property

Copyright and related rights

- Also referred to as the right to copy.
- An incorporeal right granted by statute to the creators of literary works and artistic productions
- whereby the creators are invested for a specified period with sole and exclusive privilege of multiplying copies or authorising performance of the same and publishing.

Copyright and related rights

- The rights of authors of literary and artistic works are protected by copyright, for a minimum period of 50 years after the death of the author.
- Also protected through copyright and related rights are the rights of performers.

Copyright and related rights

- (e.g. actors, singers and musicians), producers of phonograms (sound recordings) and broadcasting organizations..
- The main social purpose of protection of copyright and related rights is to encourage and reward creative work

Industrial property

- Industrial property can usefully be divided into two main areas:
  - the protection of distinctive signs, in particular trademarks (which distinguish the goods or services of one undertaking from those of other undertakings).

Industrial property

- Other types of industrial property are protected primarily to stimulate innovation, design and the creation of technology.
- In this category fall inventions (protected by patents), industrial designs and trade secrets.

Licensing

- A license is an arrangement under which an organisation (the licensor) grants another organisation (the licensee)
- the right to manufacture goods, use patents, use processes, or exploit trade marks within a defined market.

Licensing

- It is also contractual agreements granting permission for the use of intellectual property under specific conditions.
- Some online licenses impose limits beyond what is covered under copyright law.

Acquisition and Use of Software

- Software is a unique commodity in that it has to be copied onto the machine before it can be used (Installed).
- Therefore unique conditions are prescribed by the publishers of the software determining the usage and transferability of the software even if it is paid for.

End User Licensing Agreement

- This is the agreements made by the publisher of software granting the bearer permissions
- to load the software on their computer subject to conditions.
- This may be made when the user/client accepts the licensing agreement terms and conditions through the actual act of opening the container/packaging that houses the software.
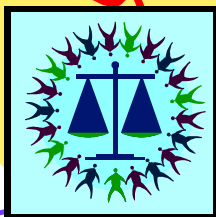
End User Licensing Agreement

- This agreement may also be upheld by activating the software itself.
- The user may opt out of the agreement by refusing to open the container/packaging housing the software or refusing to activate it with the subject conditions.

ICT ETHICS, POLICY & SECURITY ISSUES

DEFINITION

- *Definition:* Ethic, ethical, ethics
- Ethics is concerned with issues of value, such as judgments about what constitutes "good" or "bad" behavior in any given context.
- Ethics are the standards, values, morals, principles, etc., which guide one's decisions or actions.

DEFINITION

- ICT Ethics relate to the standards of conduct governing individual, institution's societies' & or international use of information & communication technology

ICT ETHICS

- ICT poses complex ethical dilemmas.
- The borderless global dimension of ICT underscores the need for ethical guidance and the formulation of consistent ICT standards and codes of conduct.

DOMAINS OF ICT ETHICS

- Commercial & Legal Issues
- Expression
- Privacy Issues
- Social Justice / Accessibility
- Computer Abuse
- Intellectual Property
- Moral Responsibility
- Risks

COMMERCIAL / LEGAL ISSUES

- concern Fraud, Free-trade, Gambling, Anticompetitive Practices, etc.
- ICT standards governing commercial & legal issues aim to suppress dishonest business practices and to protect and encourage fair competition

EXPRESSION –

- Concerns, Free Speech, Netiquette (polite-use conventions), etc.
- ICT related standards aim to control(among other things) hate motivated or indecent communication, whilst protecting free-speech rights.

PRIVACY –

- Concerns E-mail Privacy, Anonymity, Spamming, encryption, database or personal information Privacy etc.
- Ethical standards protect personal & commercial information such as login & password info, credit card and account information and government and commercial databases.
- It also controls unwanted internet mail and ads (Spam).

SOCIAL JUSTICE

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- Social Justice relates to The Digital Divide (unequal ICT access), Accessibility for students with special needs , etc.
- Ethical standards relate to making ICT available and accessible to all peoples, including the disabled and the deprived.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- *Intellectual Content, Student Authenticity, Software Piracy. Patents & Copyright Law, Electronic Copyright etc.*
- ICT Ethical standards aim to control plagiarism, student identity fraud, and the use of copyrighted material, etc.

MORAL RESPONSIBILITY –

- Concerns individual action such as Whistle-blowing (exposing ethical violations) and personal adherence to ethical codes.
- Ethical standards include a personal moral dimension.

RISKS –

- *Risk faced by ICT users relate to username thefts, Computer hardware & Software Reliability, etc.*
- Related ICT Ethical standards govern Internet Service Providers (ISP), responsibility to protect client information and the quality of computer hardware and software.

COMPUTER ABUSE

- *Computer abuse includes Hacking, dissemination of software Worms, software Viruses, Trojan Horses (program that introduces viruses to computers), etc.*
- Related ethical standards aim to penalize violators.

QUESTIONS - ICT ETHICS

- What means do educational institutions use currently, to ensure student authenticity; that is; registered students produce and present their own work?
- How could ICT accessibility be improved for disabled and or deprived ICT users?
- How does the "personal moral dimension" of ICT ethics strike you? Does our ethical obligation go beyond standard ethical conduct?

ICT POLICY ISSUES

Definition of ICT policy …

- ICT policy documents are developed by technology user groups to outline their beliefs, vision, strategies, principles and responsibilities in using Information and Communication Technology.

RATIONALE FOR ICT POLICIES

- ICT policies emerge from the obligation of user groups, including School Boards and universities, to delineate policies connecting acceptable use protocols with stakeholder rights and responsibilities.
- ICT policies help to minimize or eliminate liability resulting from unacceptable use, or breach of ethic.

DETAILS OF ICT POLICY

COPYRIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES …

- The retrieval of work from a file to the Internet to the desktop has been defined by the courts as a "copy".
- Do not assume you are protected under the Fair Use exemption because you are enrolled in a course or your work has some educational purpose.

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COPYRIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Unless a work categorically states it may be copied freely, it should be considered copyrighted material.
- Teachers should view ICT capabilities as an extension of the classroom while remaining cognizant of copyright responsibilities.

CENSORSHIP ISSUES …

- The most complicated issue arising out of ICT use might be the imposition of censorship rules.
- The advent of monitors and graphic displays create a potentially controversial situation wherein individuals possessing a wide spectrum of moral values might disagree on what constitutes offensive content and can therefore justify censorship.

CENSORSHIP ISSUES …

- ICT Policy must strike a delicate balance in defining a sense of community morality acceptable to a diverse range of user groups.

USER RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- ICT Policy should connect acceptable use protocols with stakeholder rights such as freedom of expression and freedom from persecution.
- ICT Policy should delineate consequences for breaches of appropriate usage.
- ICT Policy should outline a comprehensive set of rights and responsibilities for user groups.

Questions