

Professional Computing Ethics Essay

You are a software engineer working on a product which enables people to circumvent copy protection mechanisms which are built into electronic books. This copy protection mechanism prevents the books from being read by specialised software used by the blind to read the books out loud. Of course, disabling the copy protection mechanism also allows the illegal distribution of copies of the books, which could expose the company, and perhaps yourself, to litigation.

Read Richard Spinello, *Ethical Aspects of Information Technology*, particularly Chapter 4. Then, with reference to the Australian Computer Society's Code of Ethics (<http://www.csse.uwa.edu.au/undergraduate/units/CITS3200/ethics/acs-ethics.htm>) answer Spinello's three questions at the bottom of page 108. Marks are allocated based on a discussion of the issues, discussion of the ACS guidelines and their application to the questions.

Your essay should be approximately 1500-2000 words. For readability please:

- Use a serified font, e.g. Times rather than Arial,
- Include references in the text to ACS clause numbers (eg 4.3.3),
- 1.5 line or double spacing (in MS Word: Format -> Paragraph -> Line Spacing).
- Please understand that if you refer to someone else's work you will normally paraphrase their remarks and include a citation (in Harvard format). If you use the authors' exact words that is a quotation, so should be surrounded by quotation marks and include a citation. Cutting and pasting without quotation marks, and particularly without a citation, is plagiarism.

A sample essay may be found at:

<http://undergraduate.csse.uwa.edu.au/units/CITS3200/essay/SampleEssayPC307.pdf>

Please hand in a hard copy of the essay to the CSSE office and also electronically via cssubmit, pdf preferred. See the Schedule of Deliverables on the Project web page for the date and time that the submissions close.

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