

## **CSI 2911 Assignment 3**

**W2012 semester**

Due Apr. 12, 2012

Submit via Virtual Campus

20% of the course mark (marks are indicated in every question)

### **1. Patents**

There is much controversy about whether a patent is an appropriate protection mechanism for software.

What are some reasons that it is an appropriate protection? **(1.5)**

What are some arguments why it is not?**(1.5)**

Patents only protect within the country that grants the patent. A single company may have to apply for patents in several countries to protect their investment. Discuss your thoughts on this process, as it is time consuming and expensive. Do you feel this is necessary? Do you think a global standard would work? If so, how?**(2.5)**

Some countries have not recognized or protected intellectual property, including trademarks. Intellectual property piracy has been more common outside North America. Why do you think this is? Do many of the countries with high piracy rates have a significant software industry? Provide reasons for your answer. **(1.5)**

Develop an argument whether you think patents are or are not a sufficient protection for software. **(1.5)**

Why not only have free software? **(2)**

## **2. Face recognition, safety and privacy**

Suppose that Ottawa is considering setting up a camera and face-recognition system in the downtown area and in neighborhoods with high crime rates. You are asked to serve as a consultant to help design policies for use of the system. Consider a variety of aspects: for example;

who will have access to the system,

what databases of photos will be used for matching,

how long video will be stored,

who would operate the system (law enforcement agencies or private companies) and

any other factors you would consider important. Describe some of your most important recommendations and your reasons for them (no more than 250 words for the whole Question 2. Bullet style recommended). – (3.5)

## **3. Cell Phones and Privacy**

Issue 1: Prepaid cell phone service can protect privacy. One can buy a phone for cash and pay cash in advance for service. There are no billing records, and records of calls made on the phone are not linked to the owner. Cell phone carriers and governments in a few countries (e.g. in Europe) require an ID which is registered at the time of purchase of a SIM. Discuss the following:

What are some legitimate uses for prepaid cell phones?

Should prepaid cell phones be banned or otherwise controlled by law (i.e. require cell phone users to register their prepaid cell phones so they can be tracked)?

Give your reasons. Max 100 words for Issue 1. Bullet style recommended. – (2.5)

Issue 2: Another issue of cell phones is video. Videos and pictures taken with cell phones are popping up on the Web and the news with increasing frequency. Often the subject of the video is unaware they are being recorded. With respect to cell phone videos,

should a person have an expectation of privacy when they are out in public?

What about if they are inside a retail store or bank?

Inside their own home?

What regulations, if any, would you recommend and why?

Give examples of situations whereby videos taken with a cell phone play a positive social role?

Max 250 words for Issue 2. Bullet style recommended – **(3.5)**