

CS 305: Social, Ethical and Legal Implications of Computing

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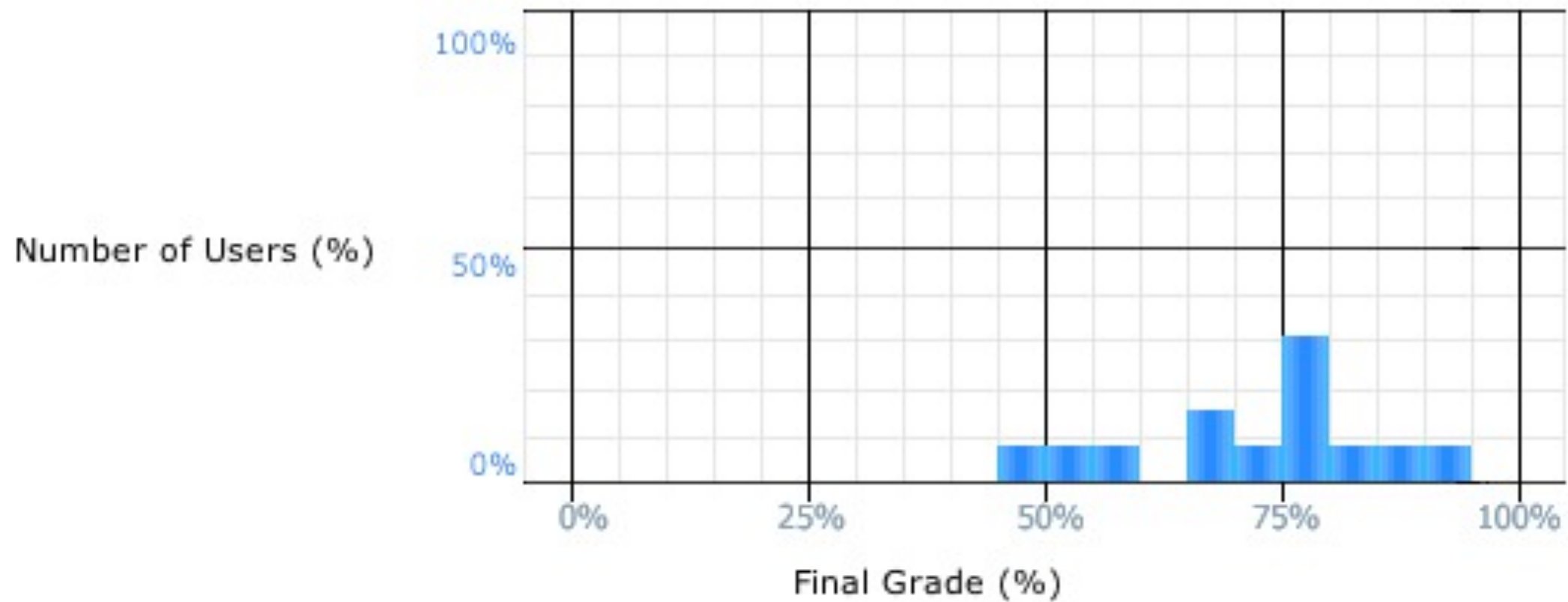
Quiz

Class Average:



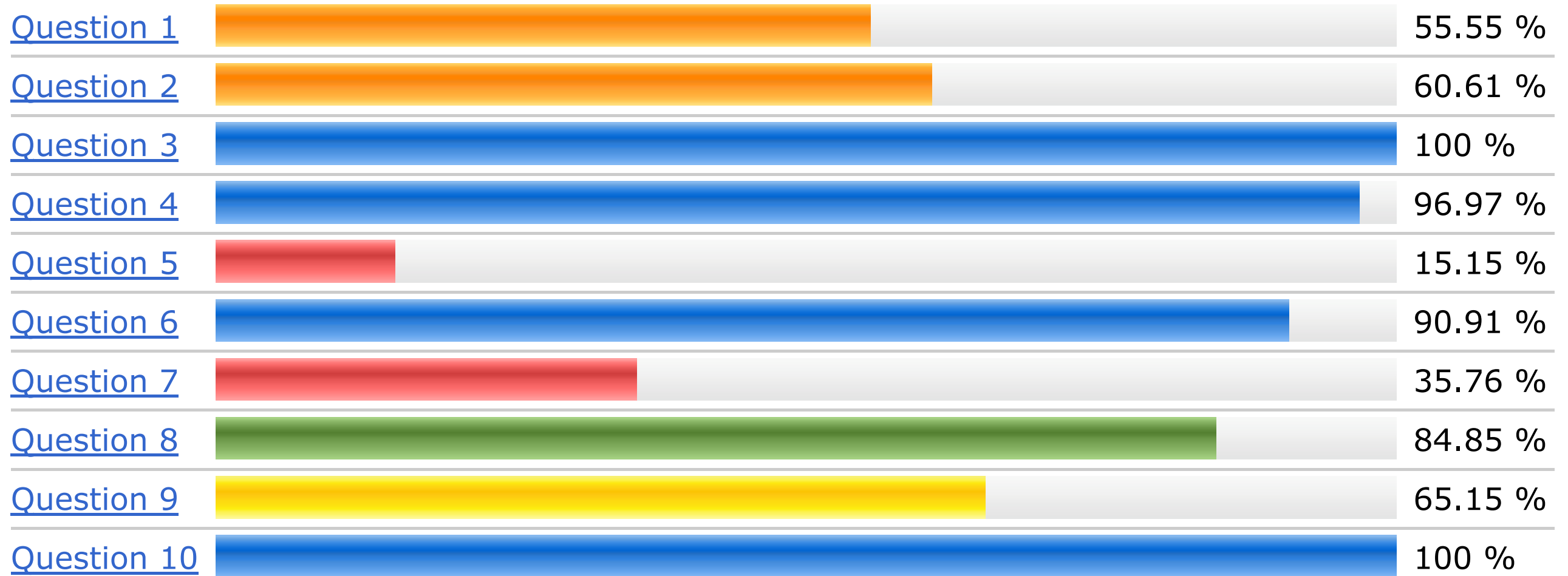
71.41 %

Score Distribution:



Question Stats

Question Statistics



Ethical Theories

- Provide a framework for moral decision-making
 - ▶ Applied consistently to determine whether an action is right or wrong
 - ▶ Allow a person to present a persuasive, logical argument as to why certain actions should or should not be allowed

Ethical Theories

- Theories covered in book
 - ▶ Subjective relativism
 - ▶ Cultural relativism
 - ▶ Divine command theory
 - ▶ Ethical egoism
 - ▶ Kantianism
 - ▶ Act utilitarianism
 - ▶ Rule utilitarianism
 - ▶ Social contract theory

SMBC

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CEREAL

ARCHIVE CONTACT FORUM STORE



BY ZACH WEINER



WE CREATED A UTILITARIAN ETHICS COMPUTER TO REPLACE GOVERNMENT.

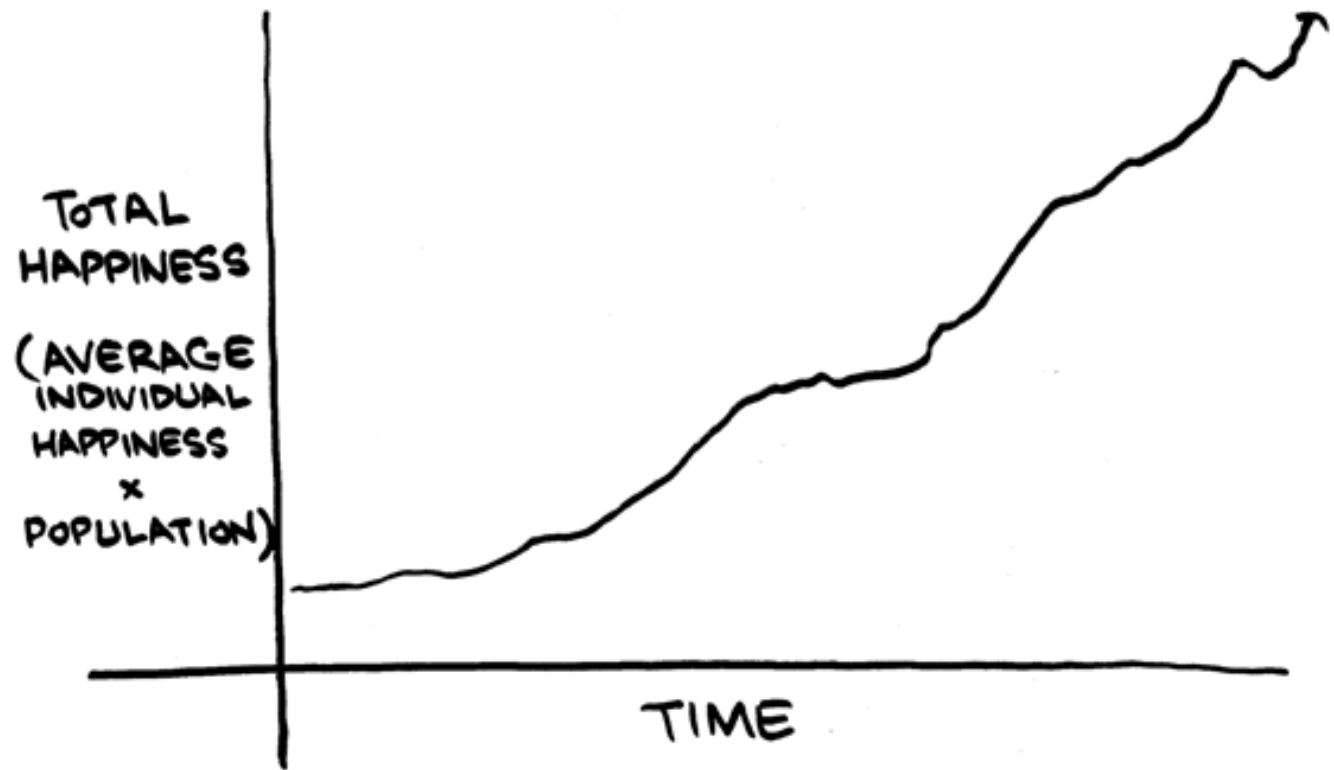


IT WAS ODD AT FIRST, REPLACING JUSTICE AND MORAL TRUTH WITH MAXIMUM HAPPINESS.



- MORE WEINERWORKS
- THE SMBC BOOK!
 - SMBC THEATER
 - SNOWFLAKES
 - CAPTAIN STUPENDOUS
 - WEINERSMITH (my wife!)

BUT, ON THE WHOLE, THINGS WENT WELL.



UNTIL A STRANGE PERSON EMERGED.



THE HAPPIEST MAN WAS SO DELIGHTED BY EVERYTHING THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A THIRD OF ALL HAPPINESS ON EARTH.



OH MY GOD I FOUND A PENNY! A SHINY ONE! THIS IS BETTER THAN A THOUSAND PONIES!

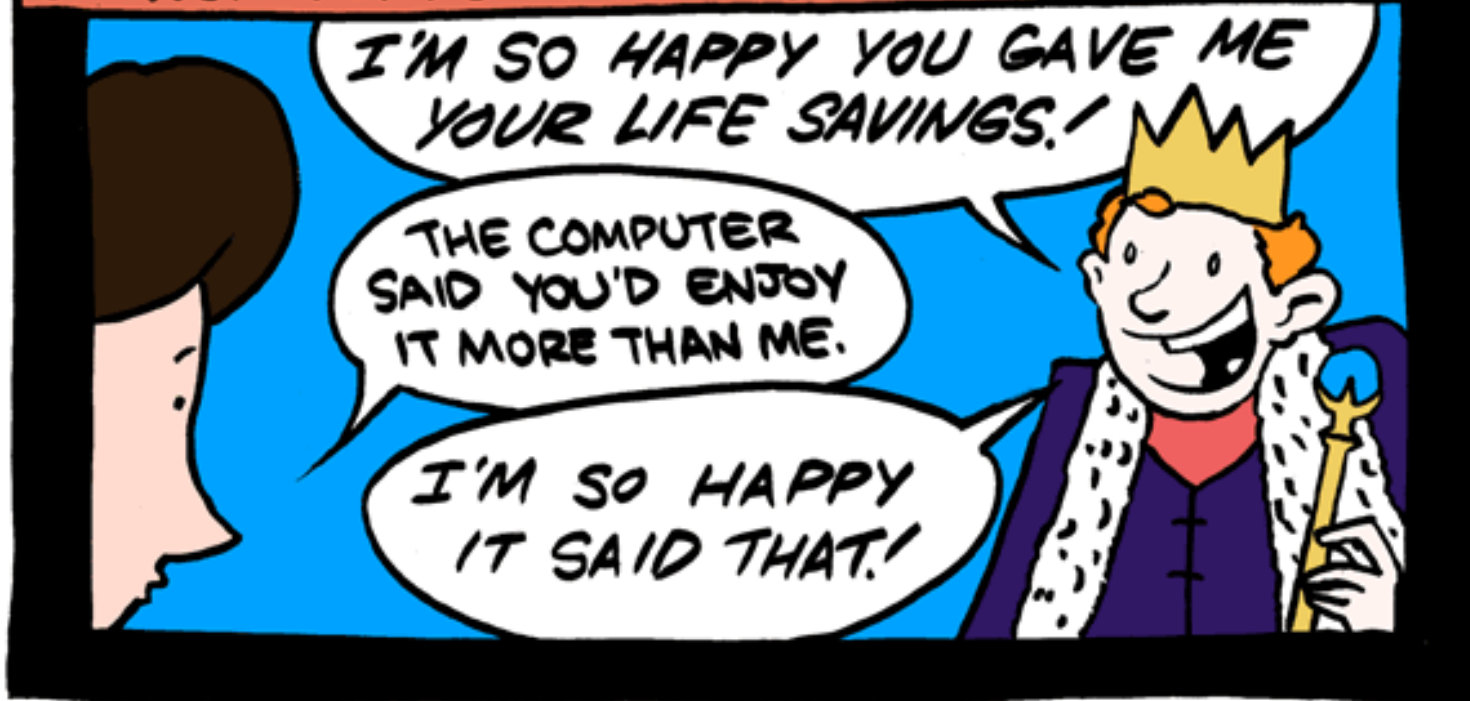
SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE COMPUTER'S JUDGMENTS BEGAN FAVORING THE HAPPIEST MAN, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GREATER TOTAL HAPPINESS.

SHOULD I END IT ALL?

NO. WE NEED YOUR BODY TO MANUFACTURE LUCKY PENNIES FOR FELIX TO FIND.



FELIX'S HAPPINESS COMPOUNDED WITH EACH NEW HAPPY EVENT, WHICH CREATED A FEEDBACK LOOP. WITHIN A YEAR, FELIX CONTROLLED 98% OF WORLDWIDE HAPPINESS.



THINGS GOT WORSE AND WORSE.



SOON, EVERYONE WAS ENSLAVED AND ON AMPHETAMINES SO THEY COULD WORK 23 HOURS A DAY TO MAKE THE HAPPIEST MAN HAPPIER.



HOORAY! ANOTHER PYRAMID JUST FOR ME!

... I CAN'T SAY THIS STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING.



FELIX DOESN'T LET US SPEAK.

I LIKE MY OWN VOICE BEST!



Scenario 4

- You are a software engineer at a startup company developing a new product for salespeople
- Your company's salesforce has led a major potential customer to believe that your product will be released next week
- The product still contains bugs. The testing group reports that the known bugs appear to be minor, but it will take another month of testing to be sure that there is no catastrophic bug.

- It's critical to the success for your company that you be "first to market". You believe that an established competitor will release a similar product in a few weeks.
- If the competitor's product appears first, your company will probably go out of business.

Scenario 4

- Should you recommend release of the product next week?
- Who will benefit if the company follows your recommendation?
- Who will be harmed if the company follows your recommendation?
- Do you have an obligation to any group of people that may be affected by your decision?
- What additional information, if any, would help you answer the previous question?

More on Ethics

- **Ethics: rational, systematic analysis**
 - “Doing ethics”: answers need explanations
 - Explanations: facts, shared values, logic
- **Ethics: voluntary, moral choices**
- **Workable ethical theory: produces explanations that might be persuasive to a skeptical, yet open-minded audience**

Ethics and the Internet

Topics in this Chapter

- Spam
- Political Censorship
- Social Censorship
- “Sexting”
- “Internet Addiction”
- “Cyberbullying”
- Identity Theft

What about:

- “Hacking”
- “Net Neutrality”
- Advertising

Spam

- Kantian Analysis: “Treat targets as a means to an end”
- Act Utilitarian Analysis: Bogus economic analysis
- Rule Utilitarian Analysis: “It is in our interest for as many people as possible to use email accounts”
- “Making Direct Mail Moral”: source, subject and solicitation

What about:

- Spam Targets the mentally infirm
- Gray areas
 - ▶ “Opt-out/opt-in” click boxes
 - ▶ Highly targeted UCE
 - ▶ Unsolicited Non-commercial Email
- Legal and network situation
 - ▶ “CAN-SPAM Act”
 - ▶ Black lists (DNS-based blackhole list)
 - ▶ Botnets
 - ▶ Phone spam, postal spam

Political Censorship

- Great Firewall of China
 - ▶ Other countries are following suit
 - e.g., recent Egypt Internet takedown
- US Political Censorship
 - ▶ Legal framework: “National Security”
 - ▶ Wikileaks

Social Censorship

- Quinn has good discussion of history of “Freedom of speech” as a limited right in USA
- Internet's ability to instantly transmit huge quantities of data to a huge number of people anonymously highlights existing social questions
 - ▶ Not just about sex: racism and other forms of discrimination, violence ...
 - ▶ Pace of change

“Sexting”

- Technology makes easy what used to be difficult
- Unintended (?) consequence of child porn laws is to criminalize innocent (?) behavior
 - ▶ Example: Ting Yi Oei case

“Cyberbullying”

- What is the ethical responsibility on participants in an Internet conversation? What factors affect the ethicality of your Internet utterances?
- In what ways is “cyberbullying” just bullying? In what ways is it different?
- What legal questions arise?

“Internet Addiction”

- Is this real? What about “Book addiction”
- Is it unique to the Internet, or just plain old mental illness?
- How does it relate to “flow state” and “immersive” ? Are these always bad?
- The amazing scary case of China's “Internet Addiction Boot Camps”

CHINA

Chinese Internet Addicts Stage Daring Boot Camp Escape

A group of adolescents interred at an internet addiction boot camp rose up against their oppressors last week, restraining their supervisor and fleeing the facility to taste sweet, sweet freedom. At least until their parents sent them back.

China admits it has an internet addiction problem, which is the first step towards recovery. The popular second step right now is sending teens and adults addicted to the internet and online gaming to boot camps, where instructors use military techniques to try and instill a sense of discipline in folks who'd rather just play World of Warcraft.



BY MIKE FAHEY +

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"We need to teach them some discipline and help them to establish a regular lifestyle," the paper quoted an employee at the camp as saying. "We have to use military-style methods such as total immersion and physical training on these young people."

According to the Global Times, a group of 14 addicts aged 15 to 22 interred at the Huai'an Internet Addiction Treatment Centre in China's Jiangsu province decided they'd had enough last week, tying their supervisor to his bed and fleeing the grounds.

Their freedom was short-lived, however. All 14 were caught by police after failing to pay the fare for a taxi they used in their daring escape. Thirteen of those have already been returned to the center by their parents.

The China Youth Association for Network Development says that up to 24 million Chinese adolescents are addicted to the internet. Half of those are addicted to online gaming, which makes us wonder what the other half are doing.

“Net Neutrality”

- The Internet is historically like the Interstate: a freely, equally shared resource. But things change.
- What should the limits on this be?
- Should ISPs get to slow or block peer-to-peer communication?
- Should they be allowed to “evesdrop on my packets”?
 - ▶ “deep packet inspection”

Advertising

- Shift of the net from collaborative to broadcast model
- Ability to very directly (and intrusively) target messages
 - Social network analysis
 - Inference from clever sources
- What are the ethical bounds on Internet advertising?