

Homework: For each module, there will be about five homework questions, for a total of about thirty questions over the term. You will be given 1/2% for each genuine and good attempt at an answer. In order to get the full 10% for the homework component, answer **any twenty questions** over the whole term. (Answers need not be right in order to get full marks. But they cannot be way off base.) These have a hard deadline and are due every Friday by 11:59 pm. NOTE: In addition to submitting your own answers, you must review answers from two other students in the time periods indicated, in order to receive a grade for each module's homework questions.

Question 1

In his article, James Moor asks, "What is it about computers that makes them revolutionary?" Explain his answer to this question.

According to James Moor, the term "Revolution" is overused in relation to describing new advancements or improvements to things that have already been created/ discovered. James Moor suggests certain improvements or enhancements that companies come up with to improve products, such as the computer, are often deemed "revolutionary discoveries". However, these discoveries are in fact "logical malleability", technological enhancements or improvement that have occurred over time to make the quality of something to be more attractive or work better. Something that already exists is not a "revolutionary discovery" so why is that term used to promote the enhancement in the already discovered product. To me, this is what James Moor is referring to when he asks, "What is it about computers that makes them revolutionary?"

Question 2

Nicholas Carr, in his article, suggests that using certain kinds of technologies, especially ones that extend our mental, as opposed to physical, abilities changes us – that we "begin to take on the qualities of those technologies." What does he mean by this? What example does he use? Can you think of other ways we have taken on the qualities of new technologies?

Nicholas Carr suggests, the human brain is almost infinitely malleable, in that it can be easily transformed or altered over time. The example Nicholas Carr used to support his thoughts came from that of James Olds, a professor of neuroscience who directs the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study at George Mason University, says that even the adult mind "is very plastic." Nerve cells routinely break old connections and form new ones. The brain," according to Olds, "has the ability to reprogram itself on the fly, altering the way it functions.

Social media is another new technology that we as individuals are beginning to take on and adapt to. However, the implications of social media can be seen in the decreased amount of time in which we spend interacting face to face with our family and friends.

Question 5

Fieser says that there are three main types of moral theories: virtue theories, duty theories, and consequentialist theories. In broad outlines, what are the main differences between them, and what motivates each type of theory?

1. Virtue theories reflect the moral character of the individual carrying out an action, rather than ethical duties, rules, or consequences associated with ones actions.
2. Duty theories (Deontological) are based on how people react in relation to certain situations. They are the decisions in which we make based on what we think is right and what is wrong.

3. Consequentialist theories suggests that an action is morally right if the consequences of that action is more favorable than that of unfavorable.

The main difference between the three theories is that virtue theories provide us with guidance and looks at personal characteristics of being good as something we learn over time (virtue ethics), duty theories are based on duty and a fixed moral law (Kant), and lastly, consequentialist theories are based on self interest or what personally makes us happy (utilitarianism).

Question 6

James Moor's discusses how computers often operate invisibly. Explain the three kinds of invisibility he discusses, and why he thinks the three ways in which computers are invisible are ethically significant.

- How do computers often operate invisibly:
 1. Invisibility factor: leads to the abuse of certain things
 - For example: Bankers stealing money from clients by rounding of cents, invading the privacy of others, and the use of unnecessary surveillance.
 2. Invisible programming values: The programmer makes the decisions
 - For example, SABRE: how airline information is obtained and used.
 3. Complex calculation: Certain information that is too complex for a human to evaluate.
 - For example: the 4 color map problem.
 - Nuclear defense sensors and human response time
 4. One of the strengths of computers is the ability to locate hidden information and display it.
 - Computers can make the invisible visible.
 - For example: Retrieving lost information/ data is much easier.

Homework Questions Module #3:

Module 3: Homework Question 1

What are the advantages of keeping something a trade secret over patenting it? And what are some of the advantages of patenting something over keeping something a trade secret?

Sometimes, trade secrets do not reach the requirements for it to be included as a patent. Trade secrets have the advantage of not being limited in time. It can therefore continue forever unless the secret is revealed publically. Trade secrets also don't involve registration costs, although it can sometimes be expensive to keep the secret from the public. Lastly, trade secrets have immediate effects and do not require compliance with formalities such as disclosure of the information to a government authority. On the other hand, a patent gives the inventor the right to stop others from manufacturing, copying and selling the product. You also hold commercial exclusive rights to the invention which is important. The patent holder can also license the rights to others for use.

A Trade secret can be protected longer and it is less expensive in comparison to patenting. Unfortunately however, trade secrets are only protected through confidentiality and can therefore be easily stolen or lost if left unprotected by the company. Registering a patent is a lengthy and costly process, however, patenting provides more protection than a trade secret and gives only the owner the legal rights to the idea. Thus, the idea cannot be replicated, sold, or altered by anyone other than the owner.

Module 3: Homework Question 2

Hettinger writes that "Separating out the individual contribution of the inventor, writer, or manager from this historical/social component is no easy task." Explain what this means and his reasons for thinking this.

Being able to identify the value that a laborer's labor adds to the world with the market value of the resulting product directly ignores the vast contributions that others had on the product. What this is trying to say is that a person who relied on human intellectual history and only made a small modification to a product, should not receive anything more than what the last person who generally created the product received. The market value of the product should be shared throughout all of the laborers and those whose ideas contributed to the origin of the product. Hettinger is also saying that just because the original contributors are no longer present to receive their fair share is not a good enough reason to give the entire market value to the last contributor.

Module 3: Homework Question 3

On the bottom of p. 38, Hettinger discusses the example of the market value of a new drug formula. Explain the lesson he is trying to draw from this example.

The lesson he is trying to draw from this example is that there are many contributing factors that make up the market value of a product. The example of a new drug formula the contributing factors such as a monetary value and funds, policies in place, length and extent of the patent that the state grants, etc. The final product of a new drug formula is all dependent on how much of these contributing factors are involved. The lesson is that there are many factors when determining and appointing the market value of a product and it is hard to determine who and what gets the acknowledgment for the final product.

Module 3: Homework Question 4

In the video lecture, I neglected to discuss a distinction in my explanation of copyrights. Copyrights only protect the expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves. Explain this distinction and why it is important. (See the Barlow and Hettinger articles.)

Copyrights protect expressions of ideas because ideas are of an abstract nature or from a "mental" world and thus are difficult to determine who "owns" mental thoughts. Conversely, when someone takes an idea or a thought and creates their own expression of it in a physical manner (i.e., written down on paper), they have the ability to be protected through words or language legally bounded by a copyright.

Module 3: Homework Question 5

When Barlow says that "information wants to be free", what does he mean? Great job explaining Dylan! -

What Barlow means by "information wants to be free" he means metaphorically that information is like fluid and cannot be bottled up. Before the advent of the Internet, information was bottled; so to speak, where one (or enterprize) was the master of his or her own fluid inside the bottle. In other words, the fluid inside the bottle was like a genie, where it served it's master. In this example, the bottle was just the enabler and the fluid just fluid or an "idea/information". Yet, since fluid no longer needs a facilitator or "bottle" and now has a platform (Internet) where this fluid is free, it rushes through this platform as water would through a dam, freely flowing to everyone and anyone. Furthermore, once this fluid leaves the bottle, (information is out or the cat is out of

the bag) the information is no longer owned (by a master/owner) and it is then free for everyone as nature intended it to be.

Module 3: Homework Question 6

Explain Thomas Jefferson's and James Madison's views regarding copyrights, and what motivated their views. (See the Mann and Barlow articles.)

Thomas Jefferson felt that ideas are not property and they are meant to be expanded upon. Someone taking an idea they had and furthering that idea did not diminish the original idea, but just expanded upon it. The original idea was no less valuable and someone gained knowledge by using that idea.

James Madison felt that there was value in copyright and felt that writers should have a monopoly on their own works for a limited period of time.

Both Jefferson and Madison felt that copyright was, "a small evil done to accomplish a larger good". A necessary evil for some to help the greater good of more.

As founding fathers and authors of the Constitution, this issue was very meaningful and important to them

Module 3: Homework Question 7

Explain, in your own words, Stallman's arguments for why software should not have owners.

Copyright disallows the rest of the public the ability to benefit software potential. Since over the web it is so easy to copy and share, nasty copyright laws have been put into place. People are still copying regardless of the copy right law, which is potentially a reason why such nasty laws are put in place, and negatively affecting morals.

People are not even taking the idea away from the owner by copying, but simply just copying the work to share with others, which allows people to cooperate without feeling guilty. When it comes to economic loss, Stallman states that an owner can't have a loss, if someone wasn't going to buy it in the first place. He also goes on to suggest that the law doesn't state what is right or wrong, however the people in society do. Having copyright laws makes information unavailable. Software is blocked, and coded and controlling people just so information is harder to copy, and to 'protect' the owner. Stallman believes that it free software is freedom, and does not involve the price. Essentially, copying has no cost. Having copyrights, inevitable increases cost of producing and selling software, in turn fewer people are even using it. It costs money to ship, package, and store, than pay people to sell products. The laws also make people feel guilty, when it comes to sharing software. There is a conflict in morals and values which is overridden by what the law states, in turn still making the person feel wrong about a situation, in a more real life manner.

Paid software and copyrights, also means that every programmer has to start from scratch instead of adding on. Also it is harder for new programs to write large programs because they are not allowed to see old programs to see how it is done. When doing something only for the money it takes the pleasure out of the work.

Module 4: Homework Question 1

James Rachels argues that privacy is an important factor of social relationships. He states that the ability to control what information is shared and what remains confidential allows one create and maintain diverse relationships. It also helps govern how one acts in certain situations and what kind

of behaviors are appropriate in different kinds of relationships. For example the information that one gives to his or her best friend is likely more intimate than the information that they give to a co-worker. They are also likely to act more professional around a co-worker and more relaxed or natural around a friend or group of friends. More specifically Rachels states the ability to selectively disclose *mundane* information is what allows us to develop diverse social relationships. As a result his prediction was that technology that reduces the ability to control the spread of mundane information would inevitably reduce the diversity of relationships or the total number of diverse relationships that one might have.

Module 4: Homework Question 2

From page 323–24 of his article, Rachels discusses a case from the John Barth's novel *End of the Road*. What lesson is he trying to draw from this story?

Privacy is described as a state of being free from public observation or disrupted by others. In the story which James Rachels discusses two people (Jake and Rennie) begin to spy on Joe, who believes he is in the comfort of his own home and believes he is alone not being watched. Rennie believes it is wrong to spy and believes that if a person is authentic then they won't be any different when they are alone. Although what James Rachels believes is that people "may want to keep some aspect of their life or behaviour private simply because it would be embarrassing for others to know." As the two begin to watch Joe they come to find him executing military commands. Again, Rennie appeared shocked by these actions. James further discusses how privacy affects our social relationships and alters how or what people do in front of others. In this story we can see that Joe clearly would not do this in front of others. Not only that it shows that we don't really know someone fully as we do not know them in their own privacy.

Module 4: Homework Question 3

Rachels mean when he says that "we vary our behaviour with different people according to the social relationships we have with them?" Why does he think so?

What Rachels is saying here is that the context or of our relationship with someone can determine how we behave around them. For example one might openly use foul language or drink when they are around a group of friends, but would not engage in such activities in front of their mother or grandmother. Rachels argues that our behaviors are governed by a set of conceptions that we have about what an appropriate behavior is regarding the circumstances. We will act differently around an authoritative figure than a social friend because they have a position of power over us which alters the conceptions of how we should behave. Rachels claims that these conceptions are normal and there is nothing wrong or hypocritical in having such conceptions. He also argues that one conception does not necessarily dominate any other.

Module 4: Homework Question 4

Alexis Madrigal discusses how online advertising works, referring to three companies from his "list of As." In your own words, explain what each of these three kinds of companies do?

Madrigal identifies the three companies AdNetik, AdRoll and Adexpose that all take care of a different component of online advertising. He describes AdNetik as a "standard targeting" company that identifies online consumer behavior, takes note of the demographic to which they belong and to the consumers geographical location. With this data Adnetik is able to target the consumer with ads selling products most likely to appeal to appeal to him resulting in completed sales. This company also lets advertisers determine on which sites they want their products displayed. AdRoll represents targeting companies that monitor consumers that tend to look but not buy. They drop cookies on

these consumers and continue to monitor their behavior. They will target them with ads selling products similar to the one they were browsing and wait to see if the consumer ever makes a purchase. If he does make a purchase eventually he gets noted as a consumer that can with persistent ad targeting be enticed to make a purchase. AdExpose researches whether corporations have received value for money. They monitor to see if ads targeting certain sites have resulted in sales of the product. In this way they can provide feedback to advertisers on the success of their ads in reaching consumers and resulting in sales. Corporations can then use this information to decide which online advertisers to use to sell their products.

Module 4: Homework Question 5

What does Madrigal think of the merits of "Do not track" tools? Explain his reasons of thinking so.

According to Madrigal "do not track tools" give us the false reassurance that our privacy is being protected. He discusses the fact that when you choose to opt out of being tracked so you are not targeted by on line advertisers, in fact all that happens is you may greatly decrease the number of pop up ads being sent to you. Your data is still being tracked and stored somewhere in the cyber world. He also believes it is impossible to be anonymous on line, but indicates that because computers currently do not have the ability to independently analyze data and merge it with other data our personal identities are still differentiated from our on-line identity. Computers know us as individual xxxxxx, based on our online behavior, but as of yet are not smart enough to merge that data with personal data such as our names, addresses etc. He also indicates that the internet is viable because of advertising dollars. If companies could not track our consumer behavior and use the data to market to us, advertisers would not use the internet and the internet would not be able to economically support itself to continue to function.

Module 4: Homework Question 6

Rachels argued that technology (such as the web and social networking) that reduces ones control over mundane information would result in a decrease or "flat line" of diverse relationships. Recent research has actually shown contradictory results. It was noted (by Johnson) that an increased database of electronic information has not seemed to decrease the diversity of relationships. In fact in many cases (especially social networking) it has increased the ability to pursue a larger quantity of diverse relationships. Mooradian argues that it is not the content of shared information that is the bases for relationships. Instead relationships rely on factors such as caring and intent. He also argues that physical cues associated with information sharing are important in the construction and maintenance of personal relationships. Therefore Mooradian's response to Rachels would be that controlling the content of information that is shared is not as crucial to the diversity of relationships as caring, intent and physical cues.

Module 4: Homework Question 7

Jeffrey Rosen considers one way in which information on the internet can be altered that will be beneficial to us: give them expiration dates. How would this supposedly work? And do you think it will? Why or why not?

Jeffery Rosen mentioned a few ways expiration dates would work. First he described, Mayer-Schönberger idea of digital storage devices that would be programmed to delete information (posts, pictures etc) when the expiration date was reached. The users could also have the ability to select what date they want the information to expire. Second, Google decided to make search queries anonymous by removing the internet address after nine month. Culi a search engine sets itself apart from Google by not keeping any identifiable information at all. Third, there are privacy apps such as

Tigertext. This app allows the user puts a limit time for a text messages availability, which the text disappears from the server. Lastly, the University of Washington is working on a program called self-destruct, essentially the information destroys itself after a certain period of time. This program can shatter the encryption code, restricting others from being able to read the data, this allow us to not be reliant on facebook or other websites for deleting data. Essentially these methods allow us to forget the information over time because it will no longer be at our disposable.

I personally do not think expiration dates will work. Zuckerberg Facebook's CEO statement of Facebook's duty to reveal current social norms rather than privacy, makes me doubtful that this idea of expiration dates will work. I think as a society we are more interested in the gossip and scandals. I personally would like my information to be private but getting everyone to reach agreement of this idea and follow through with it I think will be difficult.

Module 4: Homework Question 8

Jeffrey Rosen writes that we should not be focusing on privacy solely as a matter of control. What does he mean by this? And what are his reasons for thinking it?

Jeffrey Rosen writes that online privacy is not solely about control. Instead he argues that online privacy is more about tolerance and fair treatment. Thinking as privacy as only a form of control he states "misses what really worries people on the Internet today". Cause like Stacy Snyder's is less about control over her privacy and more about fair treatment and tolerance of her own content. People like Snyder are capable of controlling their own privacy online, within their own extent, it is when companies and universities take published content out of context and give it undue strength. These are of more concern for Rosen as these are effects of an age where nothing is private and your every word can be used against you. While his argument over expiration dates somewhat solves these types of problems the real issue remains in the eyes of those making these judgments unfairly. As his discusses gossip and rumors in small villages in the Middle Ages would be damaging for some time but the people eventually forget and forgive. In an age where content is never forgotten, such forgiveness is taken away. People in our society are more damning than before, often only seeing the negatives of a person. In this way focusing only on control in online privacy misses a huge issue with privacy itself.

Module 4: Homework Question 9

Helen Nissenbaum writes about the transparency paradox. What does she mean by it? And how is it relevant with respect to the internet?

The transparency paradox has to do with informed content. Transparency is the act of presenting information to a user in such a clear and complete way that they are able to make an informed decision. The problem with that is that Internet policies, terms and conditions are often so complex and detailed that presenting them to a user would only confuse them. In some cases information can be so complex that a website designer or owner does not understand such information. Nissenbaum also states that the act of simplifying such information may not be an effective method either. This is because simplifying or summarizing terms and conditions may leave out some information that is crucial in consenting. So a paradox exists from the need to make information comprehensible to users but not "watered" down so much as to leave our valuable information. This is relevant with respect to the Internet because informed consent is a very common practice for website creators and users, although it is often not understood by one or both parties.

Module 5: Homework Question 1

Lawrence Lessig writes that there is something "wrong with network owners telling content or service providers that they cannot access a meaningful broadband network unless they pay an access-tax." What does he mean by "wrong" and why does he think that it is wrong?

When Lawrence Lessig uses the word "wrong" he does not mean it in the typically sense. Most people when they think of the word wrong they would associate it with words like unjust, immoral or even unethical. Lawrence Lessig isn't trying to make the point that network owners requiring tax for broadband access is wrong in this sense. Instead Lessig is saying that this is wrong because it will restrict innovation and competition on the Internet which will restrict its evolution and growth. Lessig argues that the Internet is a massive part of what drives the economy. Therefore it would not be wise to restrict its growth, but rather it would be wise to promote network neutrality to expand the growth of the Internet and aid the economy.

Module 5: Homework Question 2

Explain Powell's "internet freedoms" and why Lessig thinks they're important.

Powell's first Internet freedom was: **The freedom to access content:** Internet users should be able to access their choice of legal content on the Internet with high speed connections. The shift from Dial-up to high speed means that those who are paying the premium for high speed connections are entitled to an unblocked or restriction to their legal choice of content. Although Powell admits certain limitation are necessary but they must be clearly spell it out in contracts. **The freedom to use applications:** according to Powell's consumers should be able to run application of their choice, applications are critical to continuing the digital broadband migrations because they can drive the demand that fuels deployment. In order to sustain the demand for applications, service providers must not interfere unless users exceed service plan limitations or harm the providers network. **The Freedom to attach personal Devices:** Consumers should not be restricted from the use of devices, the use of devices create more choice, value and personalization. **The Freedom to Obtain Service Plan Information:** Consumers need to know about the tiers and varying bandwidth and the choice they have, as well as how their service plans protect them. Lessig's believes these to be important because in his view "Powell's strategy, was a perfect mix of carrot and stick. His aim was to signal to network providers the kind of network service they could provide without fear of FCC intervention". According to Lessig's Internet's freedoms were a level at which the FCC would maintain and they would not hesitate to act. Lessig's provides an example of the Madison River case where the FCC reacted to a violation of the Internet freedoms.

Module 5: Homework Question 3

Explain Richard Bennett's skepticism regarding the arguments for net neutrality.

Richard Bennett's skepticism is based on the fact that company's such as Google can use Net Neutrality to their advantage. Bennett uses the example that "any move by carrier to selectively boost speeds for fees dull the advantage Google has secured for itself. Although essentially privatizing bandwidth by selling speed at a premium to a someone or corporation that is willing to pay is a form of inequality. The current structure allows organizations such as Google who have gained a monopoly over the years, to using the economic resources they have to build a service that consists of thousands of computers. This gives them a advantage speed over other websites and services which is an inequality in itself. Google has the ability to absorb their competition with the basis of net neutrality and then the consumers and service providers become subject to Googles control. Bennett defined this monopolization as the "true gate keeper".

Module 5: Homework Question 4

Christopher Yoo, states that innovation might be better served if policy makers embraced a "network diversity" principle that would allow different network owners to pursue different approaches to traffic routing. Yoo goes on to use an example of a private firm named Akamai which currently serves 15% of the world's Internet traffic. The service is a commercial enterprise and Yoo remarks that those who are willing to pay more get faster service. The service essentially works by replacing the traditional travel of information between two parties and locates a fast lane where the information can be transferred much faster. Although this practice is violating Network Neutrality it is much more efficient. Christopher Yoo also provides additional advantages such as "more competition among network platforms by permitting multiple networks to survive by targeting subsegments of the overall market. Yoo compares this to a specialty store surviving because of mass market retailers not offering the alternative merchandise. Yoo also states that "deviating from network neutrality might make it possible for three last mile networks to coexist: one optimized for traditional Internet applications, such as email; second incorporating security features to facilitate e-commerce and a third that facilitates time sensitive applications such as streaming media and Internet telephony. Yoo summarizes by suggesting that deviating from network neutrality may not be indefinitely creating an inequality and it might be better to proceed with it until actual harm to the consumer can be proven.

Module 5: Homework Question 5

Explain Tim Wu's arguments for thinking that without imposing net neutrality, innovation would be seriously hindered.

According to Tim Wu innovation comes from "the dream or will to found a private kingdom", "the will to conquer; the impulse to fight, to prove oneself superior to others." and "joy of creating" but innovation can be hindered by such actions as access tiering. Tim Wu uses the analogy of the refrigerator to exemplify that access tiering can create a monopoly that will delete competitors from the innovation and market equation. This is not based on the existence of a superior product but superior economic resources. In this example the lack of Net Neutrality causes innovation to become non-existent because there is no reason for "oneself to create a superior product to others" in the refrigerator example a superior product cannot be created. This is because the "superior" product already exists because it has financial control over the market place.

Module 5: Homework Question 6

Tim Wu makes an analogy between access-tiering and refrigerators. Explain his analogy. What is he trying to show with this analogy?

Tim Wu's analogy uses the example of an electrical company making a deal with an electronics company (in this case Samsung) and as a result they ensure that other companies' products do not work as well. This can be compared to an Internet case where an Internet provider could make a deal with a certain search engine and in return that search engine would load faster than the others. His point here is that this system results in some products or search engines having a competitive advantage over their competition simply because of their business connection. This promotes a "who you know" model then a "best product" model which restricts innovation and distorts competition in business.

Module 5: Homework Question 7

Christopher Yoo makes an analogy between access-tiering and FedEx. Explain the analogy. What is he trying to show with this analogy?

Christopher Yoo uses FedEx as an analogy in the following manner. He states that "instead of taking three or four days to send a letter from coast to coast, FedEx made it possible to send the same letter over one night" Yoo goes on to point out that the customers would be more than willing to pay this premium for the conveniences of speed. This is an example of access-tier because Yoo states that "the Internet is currently dominated by a suite of protocols known as TCP/IP. The TCP/IP is a first come first service basis and routes traffic on a best efforts basis. This is similar to the mailservices because they are on a First come, first service basis, and similarly there is no guarantees on the package arriving for a certain time (only estimated). The analogy's core structure is based on the idea that consumers would be more than willing to pay more for speed, preferential treatment based on payment, and a guarantee on delivery time.

Module 5: Homework Question 8

Explain Christopher Yoo's argument that the possibility of blocking doesn't really justify widespread net neutrality.

Christopher Yoo's argument is as follows "In any event , the possibility of anticompetitive blocking would not support the type of general non discrimination mandate favored by network neutrality proponents. "the only time that network owners have a plausible incentive to block a web site is when they sponsor web sites that compete directly with the blocked suite. and Conversely, network owners that do not operate auction sites have no incentive to block ebay, since doing so would simply lower the value of their network". Yoo provides reasoning to suggest that blocking is really only specific in such cases as Internet phone services where the provider has the chance to loss. The loss with respect to Internet phones is such a small segment that providers would not exercise their right to block because it would effect the demand for their service. Widespread net neutrality would have no benefit for installing a blocking system since the block would be small and very site specific. Blocking would not promote a widespread discrimination but rather a concentrated discrimination for example if all of the service providers block the Internet phone service and only that service. In this instance Net Neutrality is failing to provide equality to the Internet and is promoting control to the service providers.

Module 6: Question 1:

In your own words, explain the three accounts of friendships that Cocking and Matthews describe.

"*Mirror View*" suggests, individuals require similarity in their ethical values and attitudes in order to maintain good friendships. Cocking and Mathews suggest, "the essence of friendship resides in the tendency to choose and retain friends who are similar in character". Individuals desire other individuals who are similar, which in turn is essential for the practice self love. The second account of friendship is *self-disclosure/secrets View*. Aristotle suggests this plays an important role in developing bonds of affection, intimacy and trust within a friendship. The type of information in which we choose to share with friends is what defines our relationships with them. According to Cocking and Mathews "the insight of character in which we attain through secret sharing, does provide a framework for the carrying on, and the flourishing of our friendship". Lastly, the third account is referred to as "*Drawing View*". This friendship looks at how we as individuals try new thing by stepping outside of your comfort zones based on the needs of our friend's. In essence, the "*Drawing View*" describes how our experiences bring us closer together with others and how we are able to read the feelings of others within our close friendships.

Module 6: Question 2:

At the bottom of p. 228, Cocking and Matthews states that there are things about ourselves that we are unaware of. Why do they bring this up? How does it fit into their argument?

According to Cocking and Matthews, we sometimes display voluntary and involuntary things about ourselves that we do not notice but others are able to pick up on. For example someone who gets anxious over certain things may notice that they are in a situation in which they are experiencing anxiety and thus attempt to control the effects of this anxiety by playing down the situation when in fact those around us, are able to pick up on this anxiety by observing certain behaviours like facial expressions, restlessness, etc. According to Cocking and Matthews the Internet is perhaps unique in its facilitating personal relations primarily on the basis of voluntary self disclosure, and eliminating many significant aspects of non-voluntary self-disclosure. In a nutshell, the non-voluntary behaviour identified among our face-to-face interactions is unfortunately something that cannot be identified among online friendships, which according to Cocking and Matthews is a fundamental aspect of developing meaningful relationships.

Even so, Dean Cocking (2008) argues that many online social environments, by amplifying active aspects of self-presentation under our direct control, compromise the important function of passive modes of embodied self-presentation beyond our conscious control, such as body language, facial expression, and spontaneous displays of emotion (130). He regards these as important indicators of character that play a critical role in how others see us, and by extension, how we come to understand ourselves through others' perceptions and reactions. If Cocking's view is correct, then as long as SNS continue to privilege text-based and asynchronous communications, our ability to use them to cultivate and express authentic identities may be significantly hampered.

Module 6: Question 3:

Cocking and Matthews aren't completely against having "net" friendships, and they do list some of their virtues. What are they?

According to Cocking and Matthews, online friendships differ to that of face-to-face friendships because virtual "friendships" miss much of the nature and value of face to face friendships. Furthermore, the authors suggest many people today have fallen into the trap of prolonged social networking, which for some, has overtime led to issues of isolation. In cases such as this, Cocking and Matthews suggest "Net" friendships may in fact be beneficial to those who have become psychologically impacted by the prolonged use of net interactions because its better to have virtual relations and interactions available than nothing at all. According to Cocking and Matthews, another benefit of "Net" friendships,

Is that it can be helpful in terms of providing a person with more time to think before responding to certain situations. For example, if someone receives an invite somewhere but truly is not interested in attending, the benefits of a "Net" friendship allows the recipient more time to reflect so that they can respond appropriately without offending or hurting anyone during the process. According to Cocking and Matthews, "Net" friendships are also beneficial to those living with disabilities because they facilitate the development of social interactions minus the fear of potentially being judged by others.

Module 6: Question 4:

In your own words, explain Briggles' views about how "little lies" affect the nature of our friendships.

People interact differently based on the context of their friendships. For example, face-to-face friendships are generally maintained by flattery thus offering "half truths" about each other to maximize our social circle of friends. Briggles argues these types of friendships lack the rich relational identity (the ability to define ourselves through working relationships), which is essential for the maintenance of a strong relationship. In the absence of "little lies" people tend to feel more comfortable because they can remove themselves easily from situations without being noticed. Overall however, according to Briggles, face-to-face friendships yield stronger bonds compared to that of online relationships.

Module 6: Question 5:

McCormick distinguishes between dangerous acts, harmful acts, and risk increasing acts. Using your own examples, explain these three different categories.

Dangerous Acts can be either direct (directly affecting those who participate in risky activity) or indirect damage inflicted on someone (participating in risky activities that could end up indirectly affecting others). *Harmful Acts* are acts that have the potential to cause direct harm on someone whether intentional or not. For example, kids playing at the park could be just playing but the potential of being harmed is quite high due to all the playground equipment. *Risk Increasing Acts* are things in which individuals engage in that could potentially end up inflicting harm on them such as drinking while four wheeling. Engaging in these types of behaviours simultaneously, end up doubling the chances of a person getting hurt.

Module 6: Question 6:

Why doesn't McCormick think that utilitarianism can explain what is wrong with violent video games?

Utilitarianism focuses on the greatest good for the greatest number. Essentially, this theory looks at the consequences of one's action to determine if the individual's actions were ethical or not. In the case of violent video games, McCormick sees no correlation in terms of playing violent video games and exhibiting violent behavior. The only correlation McCormick suggests are the potential health related risks of developing blisters and/or carpal tunnel. Therefore, from a utilitarianism perspective, McCormick argues that there is not enough evidence at this point to presume whether or not there is any association between violent behaviour and playing violent video games. eudaimonic

Module 6: Question 7:

Why doesn't McCormick think that Kantian ethics can explain what is wrong with violent video games?

What would Kant say?

Kant's theory suggests, people should never be used as a means to an end. In the case of violent video games, it could be easily argued that kids are being blamed for the potential to violate their duties as a result of violent video game. McCormick does not believe Kant's theory could explain what is wrong with violent video games because Kant would not suggest that there was a lack of evidence relating to the violent video game, rather, Kant would be more likely to suggest that the individual was more likely at risk of violating their gamesmanship duties instead.

Module 6: Question 8:

McCormick raises the example of a holodeck, on p. 284. What does he try to show with that example?

Module 6: Question 9:

Schulzke believes that McCormick's argument regarding Aristotelian explanations of what is wrong with violent video games is mistaken. Why?

Schulzke believes that McCormick's argument with regard to the Aristotelian perspective of violent video games isn't justified since this perspective believes that those participating in violent video games develop the "wrong sort of character". He feels that McCormick exaggerates Aristotle's dislike for violence and puts all violence under a broad umbrella for his own argument against violent video games. Schulzke points out that even though Aristotle may not have approved of all video games, he wouldn't oppose the act of violence as long as it was for the greater good. He gives as example a soldier in battle where a simulated act of violence may be justified.

Schulzke feels that video games should not be objectionable simply because of violence and that even violent video games are potentially valueable in providing moral training, if providing players with the provision to work through moral dilemmas similar to real life scenarios. This is in direct contrast to McCormick's view.