

The Hand book of information and Cyber Ethic

Chapter23: Intellectual property: Legal and Moral Challenges of Online File Sharing

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What I expect to learn:

- To know what is intellectual property
- To know the legal and moral challenges of Online File Sharing

Quote:

“Lost in the thicket of lawsuits and policy challenges are the ethical issues associated with the use and distribution of file sharing software. Is the downloading or “sharing” of copyrighted music morally reprehensible? Quite simply, are we talking about sharing or pilfering? Is social welfare enhanced by a legal regime of indirect liability? And should we hold companies like Napster, Grokster, or BitTorrent morally accountable for the direct infringement of their users, particularly if they intentionally design the code to enable the avoidance of copyright liability? Or does such accountability stretch the opposite moral notion of cooperation too far? In this overview, we will present the conflicting arguments on both sides of this provocative debate. Although our primary focus will be on the ethical dimension of this controversy, we cannot neglect the complex and intertwined legal issues.”

Book Review:

What is an intellectual property? According to this chapter, it is a property from original thought protected by law. An original creative work manifested in tangible form that can be legally protected. So that means that this property must be protected by laws at all cost. Many of us make a mistake about this topic because it's complicated and we don't understand which is which, and what is what. For beginners, they don't understand this topic well especially those beginners who will be creating something for them. They did it very well. But other people will just use it without permission to the owner. That is calling a copyright infringement. As stated here that all unauthorized property is against ethical values. For example, in downloading copyright files online can be considered as an infringement because the downloaders don't have a permission to the owner to use it. Even if it is fair use, they don't have rights to download these files. The only key to download this to avoid copyright infringement is that pay for that property and make a permission to use that thing.

We are now in 21st century and as we go along, many people and many cases involved copyright infringement. The intellectual property of a person must be protected at all cost. Let's say you did something for the good of others, and another person did something good for others but the way of doing it is stealing from you. That is considered also as a copyright infringement because that person doesn't have a permission to do such thing. Since technology is fast growing more and more cases involved in copyright infringement. It is one of the best case spread in the world. We don't have a control with this stuff and that is the reality.

For internet, it is called a gatekeepers because of Internet Service Providers and search engines. Gatekeepers are the one who are in the position to don't interfere in copyright infringement. Good thing that gatekeepers are trusted to prevent copyright infringements.

What I have learned:

- Sharing or theft
- Secondary Liability
- MGM V. Grokster
- Moral Considerations

Integrative Question:

1. What is piracy?
2. What is intellectual property?
3. What are the legal challenges of online file sharing?
4. What is the secondary liability of file sharing?
5. Who is Grokster?