

Property Rights & Morality

David Klaftenegger

David Klaftenegger

<david.klaftenegger@it.uu.se>

Stavros Aronis <stavros.aronis@it.uu.se>

Johan Östlund <johan.ostlund@it.uu.se>

Department of Computer Systems

Uppsala University

December 10, 2012



Property Rights & Morality

Are Computer Hackers Ethical?

- Eugene H. Spafford
- breaking into computers is unethical

Proprietary Rights in Software

- Individual and Policy Issues
- Deborah G. Johnson
- copying software is unethical



Hacking is unethical

- breaking into computers
- similar to checking doors
- burglary?
- illegal in real world → illegal on computers



Pirating is unethical

- copying software
- similar to using pool without permission
- breaking in?
- illegal in real world → illegal on computers



Real-World Security

Unsecured Door

- open a door
- do not enter
- leave note in mailbox about problem
- illegal? unethical?



Copying Products

Pharmaceutical (Non-)Licensing

- produce medicine without license
- price is too high for country and people
- rights owner does not cooperate
- no profits, only do it for the poor
- morally wrong?



Computer Criminality

Computer under Control of Criminal

- has been hacked
- does evil™ things
- self-defence?

Computer unsecure

- could be hacked
- pre-emptive self-defence?



Unused Service Capacity

Cinema Seat

- not enough money to afford ticket
- sneak in, take empty seat
- no damage, as would not have bought
- morally wrong?

Computer Game

- not enough money to afford game
- no damage, as would not have bought
- morally right?



Questions?

Discussion!