Bits of Morality: Ethical and Legal Issues for Children, Parents and Educators

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Outline | Dangers on the Internet | | Technological defenses | | monitoring | | filtering | | Legal context | | Political context: conflicting pressures

Problem: Dangers on the Internet



- Pedophiles
- Hate groups
- Pornography
- Plagiarism
- Stolen music & video
- Warez
- Viruses
- Criminal hackers

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Pedophiles



- Misrepresentation as youngsters
- Chat rooms
- □ E-mail
- □ Video films
- Bus/Airline tickets -- meetings

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Hate Groups



- Growing movements across world
- Anti-everything
 - racist
 - anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish, anti-. . . .
 - homophobic
- Recruiting young people through Web
 - hate-rock
 - propaganda

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Pornography



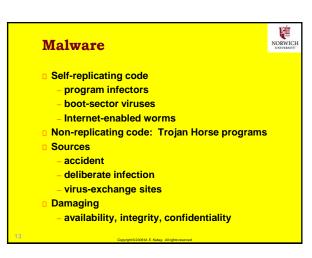
- Widespread massive amount of content
- Misleading URLs
 - trademark violations, variant domains
 - http://www.whitehouse.com (still active)
 - misspellings
 - http://www.micosoft.com (no longer active)
- Junk e-mail invitations
 - e.g., new CompuServe accounts receive invitation for Russian porn from St Petersburg

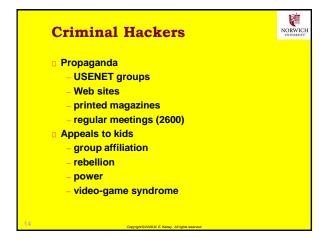
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Stolen Music & Video Napster, MP3, Gnutella, Wrapster.... trading copies of music most without permission – copyright violations lawsuits against companies & individuals Gnutella, Wrapster extending trades to other files Problems bandwidth saturation – many colleges legal liability



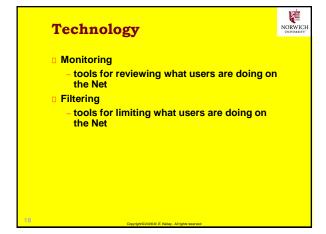


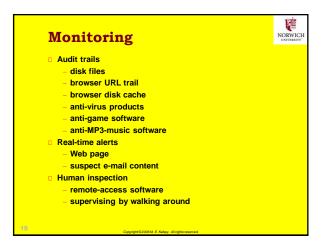


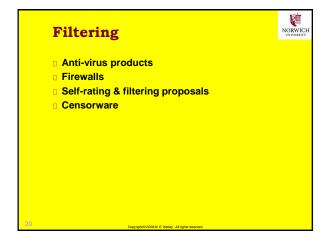


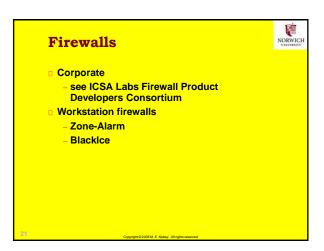




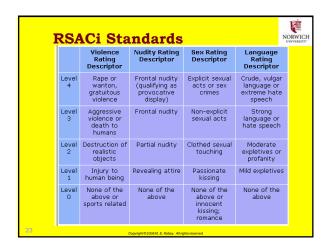


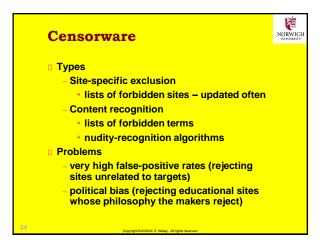


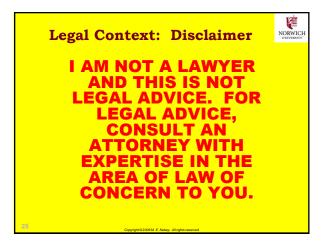




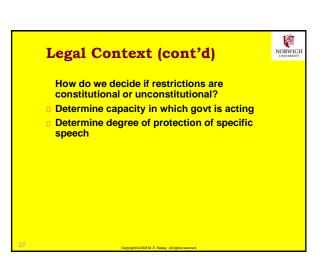
Self-rating & Filtering Proposals ICRA – Internet Content Rating Association RSACi system already works with common browsers PICS – Platform for Internet Content Selection Fundamental question: Why would objectionable sites rate themselves at all?











Determine Capacity Sovereign – least power to regulate speech Employer – can regulate speech Proprietor – can regulate K-12 educator – broad but not unlimited power University educator – less discretion to control Speaker – complete power to control speech Subsidizer – complete power

Determine Protection



- Constitutionally valueless speech
 - deliberate or reckless falsehoods
 - obscenity (difficult issue)
 - child pornography
 - incitement to lawless conduct
 - threats
 - criminal solicitation or conspiracy
- Intermediate protection
 - commercial advertising that is not false or misleading
 - sexually explicit but not obscene speech

Determine Protection (cont'd)



- □ Fully-protected: all other speech
 - political, social, religious, philosophical, scientific
 - art, literature, music, poetry
 - jokes, gossip, entertainment, casual chat

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Political Context: Conflicting Pressures



- □ For filtering
 - concerned parents
 - right-wing
 - religious fundamentalists
- Against filtering
 - concerned parents
 - libertarians
 - civil liberties advocates
 - privacy activists

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Education



- □ Who
 - Parents
 - Children
 - Teachers
- StaffWhat
 - Awareness of dangers as well as benefits
 - Knowledge of options and resources
 - Up-to-date monitoring of political initiatives

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Values and Ethics



- Don't lie so what about
- pseudonyms?
 - pretending to be what we are not online?
 - sending e-mail with forged headers?
 - manipulating the stock market?
 - plagiarism?

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Values and Ethics (cont'd) Don't gossip – so what about

- - spreading rumors and hoaxes?
 - posting information about others without permission?

Values and Ethics (cont'd)



- Treat the stranger with respect so what
 - hate groups?
 - writing or spreading viruses, Trojan horses, worms?
 - sending junk e-mail?

Values and Ethics (cont'd)



- □ Pay fairly for people's work so what about
- using shareware without paying for it?
 - making illegal copies of software?
 - music?
 - videos?

Recommendations



- Define standards of acceptable use for children, students, teachers and staff
 - important issue is the discussion
 - safeguard children against harm
 - respect other people
 - see Netiquette guidelines

http://www.fau.edu/netiquette/net/netiquette.html http://www.pbs.org/uti/guide/netiquette.html http://marketing.tenagra.com/rfc1855.html http://www.primenet.com/~vez/neti.html

Recommendations (cont'd)



- School Internet oversight group
- include all concerned
 - students
 - parents
 - teachers
 - staff
 - explicitly discuss each issue
 - protecting children against bad people
 - protecting others against children
 - intellectual property rights
 - training in critical thinking

Recommendations (cont'd)



- Provide educational resources for all
 - acceptable-use guidelines
 - limited expectation of privacy
 - pamphlets
 - **URLs**

Recommendations (cont'd) At home, in libraries and schools Use supervision-by-walking-around Install monitoring software, not blocking software Discuss infractions with all concerned – parents, students, staff, teachers

