Final: Compsci 82

Owen Astrachan

December 14, 2010

Name: ____________________________________________

NetID/Login: __________

Community Standard/Honor code acknowledgment (signature) ____________________________________________

Do NOT begin the exam until you are instructed to do so

You’ll be given prompts for three questions. For each question write a few sentences to a paragraph addressing the question. Answer the questions below the prompt. There’s an extra credit question at the end of the test.

Each answer will be graded on a 0-3 scale: skipped, fair, good, excellent. Your final grade will be based on a combined score you receive on these questions and on the online final.

The question to answer for each prompt is italicized. Page five is blank to write more on if you need to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>value</th>
<th>grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem 1</td>
<td>3 pts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem 2</td>
<td>3 pts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem 3</td>
<td>3 pts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>9 pts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROBLEM 1: (Who’s that Trip-Trapping on My Bridge?)

In a Wired online news article dated October 27, 2010, we find this explanation for an article with the headline The $105 Fix That Could Protect You From Copyright-Troll Lawsuits:

Call it ingenious, call it evil or call it a little of both: Copyright troll Righthaven is exploiting a loophole in intellectual property law, suing websites that might have avoided any trace of civil liability had they spent a mere $105.

That’s the fee for a blog or other website to register a DMCA takedown agent with the U.S. Copyright Office, an obscure bureaucratic prerequisite to enjoying a legal “safe harbor” from copyright lawsuits over third-party posts, such as reader comments.

Many of its lawsuits arise, not from articles posted by a website’s proprietors, but from comments and forum posts by the site’s readers.

Write a paragraph in which you explain what a “safe harbor” is as described above, and what kind of lawsuits you think the company Righthaven might be bringing based on the brief excerpts shown above. Justify your claims.
PROBLEM 2:  *(Open Sesame, Open Everything)*

The comic below accompanied an article about standards for online video, including streaming video. It may help you to understand the cartoon reference to “smallest violin” to see this quotation from [answers.yahoo.com](http://answers.yahoo.com)

Why do people play “air” violin when someone is upset or complaining?

The origin of this action started with the song "Hearts and Flowers" published in 1899. The violin version came to represent in silent films any scenes that were melodramatic, sentimental or mock-tragic. Pretending to play the violin (and humming the tune if you know it) when someone is complaining about something means you are playing "Hearts and Flowers" for their melodramatic scene or problem like was done in the silent movies.

Write a paragraph in which you explain (1) the response in the first panel from the bearded man about .DOC, and how that relates to Compsci 82 and (2) the last panel of the cartoon in how it relates to the entire cartoon as well as material covered in Compsci 82.
In a NY Times article dated December 10, 2010 the headline reads **Former Goldman Programmer Found Guilty of Code Theft.** The article reports:

*Sergey Aleynikov, a 40-year-old former Goldman Sachs programmer, was found guilty on Friday by a federal jury in Manhattan of stealing proprietary source code from the bank’s high-frequency trading platform. He was convicted on two counts — theft of trade secrets and transportation of stolen property — and faces up to 10 years in prison.*

*During his last three days at Goldman, Mr. Aleynikov uploaded source code to a server in Germany that allowed him to do an end around the company’s security systems. After discovering that he had stolen code, Goldman reported him to federal authorities.*

*Mr. Aleynikov acknowledged uploading code but told the F.B.I. that he never intended to steal Goldman’s proprietary information. Instead, he merely wanted to take some publicly available open-source code with him on the way out the door.*

*Until 18 months ago, Mr. Aleynikov was living the American dream. He came to the United States from Russia in 1990 with expertise in computer programming. His services were in demand at Goldman, which paid him $400,000 a year to write code for its high-frequency trading business, making him one of the bank’s highest-paid programmers.*

*Mr. Aleynikov’s lawyer, Kevin Marino said “There’s not a law in the land that makes it a crime to use or collect or download open-source code. I will dispute to my death that violating a Goldman Sachs confidentiality provision is a federal crime”.*

*Write a paragraph in which you demonstrate your understanding of free and open source software by explaining both (a) how it could be possible that the source code uploaded by Sergey Aleynikov is proprietary even if it included open source code as part of it, and alternatively (b) how it could be possible for Goldman Sachs to be in violation of copyright laws if they had not made the code for their trading system public. These are two separate, but related arguments: one or the other would likely hold, but not both.*
Name ___________________________ and NetID ____________
Extra Credit

PROBLEM 4:  (Extra Credit: There’s no issue here, the point is . . .)

The quote below is from a Dec 8, 2010 article:

Christopher Poole, aka Moot, the founder of 4chan and still stealthy Canvas Networks, is now a venture advisor. He just joined Lerer Ventures, the New York City seed fund started by Ken and Ben Lerer. While he is not a formal partner, he will have the ability to greenlight deals.

Moot is plugged into the hacker culture in New York City, which Lerer Ventures wants to tap into. He will advise the fund and bring it deals, as well as participate in the upside of the fund.

So he’s more like an advisor with privileges. Poole says “. . . I view my participation in the fund as a way to stay current as the world changes and invest in my peers who are doing amazing things.”

So what kind of startups will he be looking for? “I think I’d be drawn to a founder whose story somewhat parallels my own—working on cool stuff from a young age and more motivated by an interest in solving hard problems than the prospect of striking it rich.”

Bonus 1 point: What do you think of this?

Bonus 1 point:

There are four problems on this test. Each one except the third problem has a name. For one extra point, explain the name of each problem as it relates to the problem’s content and provide your own name for the third problem. There is a right answer for problems with names, but you can earn a point for providing good wrong answers.