

## Internet & Society: Technologies and Politics of Control

### Sample Exam

I. You've been hired as a consultant to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to advise him on a new proposed UN Action Plan for Global Internet Development and Governance. Mr. Annan asks you to draft a memo to him that sets forth your draft proposals on:

- a) how the global Internet should be governed;
- b) by whom or what the Internet should be governed; and
- c) how the United Nations should foster deployment of the Internet to the more than 5 billion people who do not yet have access to the Internet.

II. One of your Harvard Extension School classmates is considering setting up a student club to offer free, on-demand movies streamed over the Internet. The Extension School itself already has formed a free video library, where students may borrow video tapes for up to three days to watch them in the library or at their homes. Your classmate proposes to digitize these freely available video tapes and store them on a secure Web server under her control, based at her home in Cambridge. The members of her club, fellow students enrolled at the Extension School, would be able to stream the videos on demand from this Web site, with the restriction that only one stream of any given movie can be watched at a time and others who wish to watch that movie must wait until the current user's stream is closed. Given what you know about the law and the Internet, should the law allow such a club to offer this service? Would it matter if anyone, not just students of the Extension School, could access this service? Would it matter if your classmate required dues to be paid to support the activities of her non-profit Club?

III. You are the chief legal officer of a newly formed Internet Service Provider based in Las Vegas, Nevada, the fastest-growing city in the United States during the past decade. Your company, Blaze2Net, offers ultra-fast broadband access and Web site hosting on powerful, brand-new servers. Your CEO has asked you to give him a short briefing memo on a few legal questions that are vexing him regarding Blaze2Net's policies. One offering of Blaze2Net is a Web-hosting service, which allows people based anywhere in the world to publish information of their choosing to publicly-accessible Web sites served from computers based at Blaze2Net's Reno, Nevada data center. Another service is Internet access to individuals at their homes, in Nevada and other states. The Internet access package offers an optional service to parents who purchase a family account, whereby a parent may request to receive a daily log file of all activity by a minor in their household through Blaze2Net. The log file sent to parents includes copies of e-mails sent and received, Web sites visited, postings to chat rooms and bulletins boards, and the like by the minor on the family Blaze2Net account. The CEO would like to know:

- a) how the company should handle a situation in which information published to a Web site hosted by Blaze2Net on a US-based server violates hate speech laws in one

country but is allowed in the United States, and, separately, information which violates copyright laws in one country but not in the United States;

b) how the company should respond to the FBI's request to review periodically all log files sent to parents by Blaze2Net, as part of the FBI's ongoing efforts to combat child pornography; and

c) how the company should amend, if at all, its policy (permitted by the mandatory user agreement signed by parents when establishing the account) to allow advertisers access to individualized data culled from the log files to target advertising to children via Blaze2Net's advertising services. Please do not concern yourself at all with the specific state laws of Nevada.