

The Future of Computer Ethics

We began the semester by looking at James Moor's 2003 predictions about "the future of computer ethics." Since then, we've looked at a handful of interesting ethical challenges raised or exacerbated by computing technology. So, for your final paper assignment, you'll revisit some of Moor's observations and predictions.

In the first section of your paper, you'll engage with Moor's periodization of the "computer revolution." In particular, he asserts (near the end of p. 90) that we're now in the *power stage* of the revolution. Briefly explain, in your own words, what this means, and then give three examples, either from our reading or from your experience, that illustrate the characteristics of the stage as Moor describes them. You should about a page to explain each example.

In the second section of your paper, predict the biggest ethical challenge that will be grappled with in the next two years. Explain the nature of the challenge, particularly its ethical component, and why you believe it to be the most significant problem we'll have to face. (This section should take about 2 pages.)

Drafts: I will happily give you feedback on as many drafts of this paper as you wish to generate before the due date. I will take no more no more than 2 business days to return comments on your draft (therefore, the last day to send me a draft is May 8). Because of the difficulties in meeting in person during the week, you may email your drafts to me as attachments, and I will return them in the same way.

Academic Dishonesty: This paper should be completely your own work. You may discuss it with, and get help from, anyone in class, but the work should be own. Be sure to provide the names of anyone in class with whom you discuss your work. The resources at http://dewey.brooklyn.cuny.edu/resources/subject.jsp?sub_id=42#149 will help you avoid plagiarism and provide proper citations for your sources. (Even though I've given you the sources to use in your paper, you should still cite them properly!)

Fussiness: The paper should be typed (of course). At least 5 full pages, but no more than 7 full pages, double-spaced (1-inch margins, 10-12 point font).