Exercise Set 6

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

Please answer the questions below as fully and completely as you can. Turn in your written answers in class during the next class meeting. As part of this exercise set, you must read the following.

- Ch. 2.1-2.3, A Gift of Fire: Privacy

1. What personal information will the product you develop as part of your senior design project collect and/or store? Note that you may not know with certainty at this point in your project, so brainstorm as many potential pieces of information that may be collected. Be specific in your answers (e.g., instead of login information, state what exactly your application may collect and/or store).

2. In general, what privacy issues or concerns could arise from the product you are developing as part of your senior design project? List as many specific issues and concerns as you can.
3. Pick a popular application (i.e., a mobile app or a website you frequently use) that provides a “privacy policy” (note that this may be a stand alone link/page or may be included within a “terms of service” agreement). Read the privacy policy and provide a brief summary of it below.

4. Comment on the privacy policy you looked at in Question 3. In particular, was there anything in the policy that you found surprising? Does the policy seem “fair” to both sides (i.e., the consumer/visitor versus the company hosting the app/website)? Does the policy seem binding? Does it allow for the company to sell your data? Does the policy allow the company to do anything with the information it collects that would intuitively seem like a violation of your privacy rights (e.g., if you weren’t shown the privacy policy)?
5. Read the following UK WIRED article on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- What is GDPR? The summary guide to GDPR compliance in the UK
  https://www.wired.co.uk/article/what-is-gdpr-uk-eu-legislation-compliance-summary-fines-2018

which also provides link to the full regulation as well as to other guides. Provide your own summary below of the main benefits of the GDPR for software users, the requirements on software controllers and processors, and the ramifications for violations of the policies.

6. Provide your own opinion of the GDPR. Do you agree with the main points of the regulation? Are there things you would change in it to better deal with privacy issues, or do you think it is sufficient in scope? Provide an explanation for your opinion.
7. What impact, if any, do you think the GDPR will have on your software development activities now or into the future? Is it something you need to consider for your senior design project? Please explain.

8. Use the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse data breach site (https://www.privacyrights.org/data-breaches) to search for “Hacking or Malware” (HACK) incidents that have occurred in the last year. Briefly describe three cases that are “interesting” or “surprising” to you, where at least one is a company you are familiar with. Explain why you picked the three you did.
9. List to the following interview and then read the short article related to paying consumers for data. Summarize the main point made in each and give your opinion on the remarks.

- “Should we get paid for our online data?” Here & Now Audio Interview with J. Lanier, Aug 23, 2013. [http://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2013/08/22/lanier-online-data](http://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2013/08/22/lanier-online-data)


10. In general, what do you think the consequences would be if personal data was no longer treated as a “free resource” for companies to exploit (e.g., through the enactment of some form of government regulation). Explain whether you think this would or would not solve any issues in privacy and why. Also consider whether or not it would require a complete shift away from advertising revenue and “free” online services (as some argue, e.g., as briefly discussed in the Scharfenberg article), or whether such a drastic change would really be necessary. Carefully think through and try to justify your arguments and opinions.