CHAPTER 15 PROJECTS

HOT TOPICS

1. **Electronic Health Records (EHRs)** The use of electronic health records (EHRs) is growing rapidly. Proponents view EHRs as a means to deliver better care more efficiently. However, some privacy advocates are concerned about the possible security breaches of servers containing digital private medical information.

   For this project, research the current use of EHRs. What are the benefits? Are EHRs widely used? Are you concerned about your medical history being stored on a computer that, potentially, could be accessed by a hacker or other unauthorized individual? Do you think the risk of a privacy breach is higher with EHRs as compared with the records contained in conventional paper file folders? What about private electronic health systems like Google Health that are designed to help individuals organize their health records and are still stored online? At the conclusion of your research, prepare a one-page summary of your findings and opinions and submit it to your instructor.

SHORT ANSWER/RESEARCH

2. **E-Voting** E-voting—casting ballots online or via an electronic e-voting machine—has been surrounded by controversy. Concerns include the accuracy and security of e-voting machines, the ability of online voting systems to prevent someone from voting as another individual and to protect the privacy of votes cast electronically, and the ability to perform an accurate recount.

   For this project, research the current status of e-voting. Have universal standards been developed for all e-voting machines used in the United States or is that decision made on a state-by-state basis? What security measures are being used with e-voting and online voting systems to ensure they cannot be hacked and that only the registered voter is permitted to cast his or her vote? Form an opinion about the use of e-voting machines and online voting. Would you be comfortable casting your vote via an e-voting machine? How about online? At some point, do you think online voting will become the norm? If so, how would you suggest handling individuals who have no Internet access available to them on Election Day? At the conclusion of your research, submit your findings and opinions to your instructor in the form of a short paper, no more than two pages in length.

HANDS ON

3. **Browser Privacy Settings** There are a variety of settings in a Web browser that pertain to privacy, such as cookie, cache, and history settings.

   For this project, find a computer (either your own or one in a school computer lab or at your local public library) on which you are permitted to change the Internet options (ask permission first if you are not sure if these actions are allowed) and perform the following tasks:

   a. Open Internet Explorer and use the *Internet Options* option on the Tools menu or button to check the current settings on the General and Privacy tabs. Using the General tab, delete your browsing history (temporary files, history, cookies, saved passwords, and Web form information).

   b. Visit at least five different Web sites to build a history and cookie list. You may want to go to an e-commerce site and add items to your shopping cart (but don’t check out) or personalize a portal page, such as MSNBC.com or iGoogle.com.

   c. Display your history list. Are the Web sites you visited listed? Use the Browsing history Settings button on the Internet Options dialog box to view the temporary files, including your cookie files. Were new cookies added during your session? If so, are they all from the Web sites you visited, or are any of them third-party cookies?

   d. Delete all temporary Internet files, sign out of any personalized pages, and close the browser window. Prepare a short summary of your work to submit to your instructor.
4. **Security Camera Networks**  As discussed in Chapter 15, live surveillance cameras are being used at an increasing number of public locations. Some view this as a valid crime prevention tool; others think it is an invasion of privacy. Is it ethical for businesses to use video cameras to record customers’ activities? If so, for what purposes? Does the government have the responsibility to use every means possible to protect the country and its citizens? Or do citizens have the right not to be watched in public? One objection stated about these systems is “It’s not the same as a cop on the corner. This is a cop on every corner.” What if it were a live police officer at each public video camera location instead of a camera? Would that be more acceptable from a privacy standpoint? If people do not plan to commit criminal acts in public, should they be concerned that law enforcement personnel may see them? Does the risk of being recorded deter some illegal or unethical acts?

For this project, form an opinion about the ethical ramifications of public video surveillance and be prepared to discuss your position (in class, via an online class discussion group, in a class chat room, or via a class blog, depending on your instructor’s directions). You may also be asked to write a short paper expressing your opinion.

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5. **Privacy Policy Flip-Flops**  Although a company’s privacy policy may look acceptable when you read it before submitting personal information to that company, there is no guarantee that the policy will not be changed.

For this project, locate three different privacy policies on Web sites, analyze them, and compare them. Do the policies specify what personal information might be shared and with whom? Do the organizations reserve the right to change their policies at a later time without notice? If so, will they try to notify consumers? Do any of the policies allow for any sharing of data to third-party organizations? If so, is the data personally identifiable, and can customers opt out? Form an opinion regarding a company’s right to change its privacy policy and the impact such a change may have on customer loyalty. Share your findings with the class in the form of a short presentation. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes and should make use of one or more presentation aids, such as the whiteboard, handouts, overhead transparencies, or a computer-based slide presentation (your instructor may provide additional requirements). You may also be asked to submit a summary of the presentation to your instructor.

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**Instructions**: Go to the Chapter 15 page of the *UC14 CourseMate* to work the following Web Activities.

6. **Interactive Activities**  Work the interactive Crossword Puzzle, watch the Video Podcasts and Online Videos, and explore the Further Exploration links and the Flashcards associated with Chapter 15.

7. **Student Edition Labs**  Work the following interactive Student Edition Lab.

   &gt; Protecting Your Privacy Online

8. **Test Yourself**  Review the Online Study Guide for Chapter 15, then test your knowledge of the terms and concepts covered in this chapter by completing the Key Term Matching and Beat the Clock games, and then taking the Interactive Quiz.