

Technology and the Law Discussion Questions: Licensing & Other Legal Issues

1. How do you see licensing being part of your new media, informatics, paralegal or other career?
2. If you have purchased software or downloaded it from the Internet, were you aware of the license? Did you read and understand all the term?
3. Do you think it is better to purchase a copy of software or to license it, given the advantages and limitations of purchasing or licensing?
4. What do you think about open source? What issues do you see now and in the future with this kind of software?
5. In terms of the GNU and Improved article from Landslide, what are some issues to be aware of with the GPLv3 license? Do you think it addresses any gaps that are present with a GPLv2 license?
6. Select one of the other articles and describe one point or issue that you will be aware of in the future.
7. Any other interesting or surprising issues with Module 13 or the reading assignment.
8. In terms of thinking about tort liability for informatics and new media professionals and paralegals, what are some of the risks you will keep in mind as you continue in your careers? Are the laws of negligence and strict liability sufficient to protect people from harms caused by information technology such as computer programs? Do they go too far?
9. What about conduct using the Internet and other technologies that is intended to cause harm to people, data, computers or networks? Are the current laws and penalties sufficient to address such tactics as spam, viruses, trojan horses, worms and spyware?
10. How do you see the balance between individual privacy versus government intrusion shifting? Are you concerned? Where should we draw the line in terms of allowing an employer or the government to monitor email or Internet searching and other activities using technology? What about issues related to the collection of personal information for business purposes?
11. How will knowing about laws related to defamation and the rights of publicity impact what you development in terms of informatics and new media work or as a paralegal?
12. From the reading assignment for Module 14, select one of the cases, describe why it is important for new media and informatics professionals and paralegals and note what it teaches us in terms of the law in that area. Are there issues in the case that are still unsettled?
13. Any other interesting issues related to Module 14 or the reading assignment.