



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

Department of Computing & Informatics

Briefing Document

**Title: CMP3059 Professional Practice
Component One - Assignment**

Indicative Weighting: 100%

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this assessment component a student will have demonstrated competence in the following areas:

- [LO1] articulate ethical arguments that relate to the technology field;
- [LO2] apply the basic tools of case analysis to ethical and legal issues;
- [LO3] critique the nature of professionalism in context.

Introduction

As technology becomes ever more pervasive, so the application of technological solutions to real-world problems invites a growing level of ethical scrutiny. The requirement for technology practitioners to be ethically aware of the consequences of their work is similarly on the increase.

Your task

You are required to engage in some preliminary research, the aim of which is to provide a real-world case study that is suitable for investigation from an ethical and professional perspective. Your case study should be grounded within your particular area of study (although not necessarily bounded wholly within that field). For example, if you are a Games Computing student you should seek out a case study based in the Games area, an Internet Computing student should seek out a case study based in the internet field. As a minimum, all case studies *must* have a technology focus.

You should ensure that the case study you choose provides scope for ethical and professional investigation in all or most of the areas indicated on the Criterion Reference Grid for this assessment (and that were covered in greater depth in the CMP3059 lecture programme). There is no limit to the size of the case study you find, it may be a newspaper story; a magazine article; or a press release; and it may be something that you can investigate further if appropriate. *If you feel you would benefit from having some academic input as to the suitability of your chosen case study you can submit an electronic copy to the unit coordinator together with a brief précis in an e-mail before the end of Week 8 (November 14th, 2008).*

You should then write a report on the ethical and professional issues raised in your case study. This report should contain (as a minimum):

- a brief précis of your case study;
- a brief statement of your rationale for choosing this particular case;
- a detailed examination of the professional, legal and ethical issues that are raised in the study.

You also **MUST** include a copy of all pertinent case study documents with your submission – these

can either be submitted in written form as an Appendix to the main report (which will not contribute to the word count for your submission) or as electronic media (appropriately named additional file(s) uploaded to Blackboard). If you are concerned about the file size of your case study documentation, send an e-mail to Kevin Jacques (kjacques@lincoln.ac.uk) BEFORE the submission deadline identifying this, and he will make alternative arrangements to take a copy of your case study from you (this DOES NOT apply to the submission of your written report which MUST be made through the electronic submission page on the CMP3059 Professional Practice site on Blackboard).

You are reminded that your discussions should demonstrate, and be evidenced by, a broad range of reading, and should be balanced wherever appropriate by consideration of argument and counter-argument. Submissions that suggest 'blinkered' or wholly biased opinion are unlikely to receive high grades.

Submission Guidelines

This assignment is an individually assessed component.

You are required to make an electronic submission for this assessment component. Your submission must be presented according to the Department of Computing and Informatics guidelines for submission of assessed written work. There is no minimum or maximum word count for this assessment; however, as an indicative quantity measure only, each submission would be expected to contain roughly 3,000 words.

This unit is graded using a criterion reference grid. You should be clear in your understanding of the grading principles; if you are not, please seek the advice of the unit co-ordinator.

Hand In Instructions

The deadline for submission of this work is presented in the Departmental Hand-in schedule as presented on Blackboard. An appropriately completed front sheet must be included with your submission of this work.

DO NOT include this briefing document with your submission.