Use + Share + Adapt

- **Public Domain – Government**: Works that are produced by the U.S. Government. (17 USC § 105)
- **Public Domain – Expired**: Works that are no longer protected due to an expired copyright term.
- **Public Domain – Self Dedicated**: Works that a copyright holder has dedicated to the public domain.
- **Creative Commons – Zero Waiver**
- **Creative Commons – Attribution License**
- **Creative Commons – Attribution Share Alike License**
- **Creative Commons – Attribution Noncommercial License**
- **Creative Commons – Attribution Noncommercial Share Alike License**
- **GNU – Free Documentation License**

Make Your Own Assessment

- **Public Domain – Ineligible**: Works that are ineligible for copyright protection in the U.S. (17 USC § 102(b)) *laws in your jurisdiction may differ*

- **Fair Use**: Use of works that is determined to be Fair consistent with the U.S. Copyright Act. (17 USC § 107) *laws in your jurisdiction may differ*

  Our determination **DOES NOT** mean that all uses of this 3rd-party content are Fair Uses and we **DO NOT** guarantee that your use of the content is Fair.

  To use this content you should **do your own independent analysis** to determine whether or not your use will be Fair.
SI 410 ETHICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Week 2a: Transparency and Virtue Ethics
INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY

- Two senses of the word.
  - Visibility (opaque) = disclosure
  - Invisibility (clear) = non-intrusive

“Disclosing information … and … details of how such information has been produced enables those ethical principles that either depend on information or regulate it. (p. 111)
Turilli & Floridi, Ethics of Information Transparency (2009)

TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICS

Turilli/Floridi, Fig. 1, p. 107.
Information transparency is disclosed information (meaningful, veridical, comprehensible, accessible, useful).

Turilli/Floridi, Fig. 2, p. 108.
TRANSPARENCY AS PRO-ETHICAL

- Enabling or Impairing

1 Models
2 History
3 Information Ethics
4 Digitization
5 Floridi

Turilli/Floridi, Fig. 3, p. 109.

Turilli, Matteo & Floridi, Luciano, The Ethics of Information Transparency, PD-INEL
DISCUSSION – SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY

“... it is inevitable that our society is going to become an all-encompassing surveillance society. The question is ‘what sort of surveillance society are we going to become.’”

Imagine two scenarios of “transparent surveillance” – opaque and clear -- and discuss the relevance to dependence and regulation.

George Orwell 1984 versus Google Street View
VIRTUE ETHICS

- From Aristotle
- Humans have stable character traits (excellences or virtues)
- Excellence is an ability to express one’s capacities to flourish physically and socially.
  - *Eudaimonia* (happiness)
- Less about feeling, thinking, believing than action: habit of doing; promotion of virtues (or vices)
- The context of action is all important – sometimes called “situational ethics”
VIRTUE ETHICS AND SOCIAL SETTINGS

- Virtues do not arise from nature or choice, but are shaped by concrete social and physical conditions.

- Initial motivations may transform into virtues
  - Example of charity and friending
  - Example sabotage and gaming !!!!

- Character development over time in relationship to technological “affordances.”
VIRTUE ETHICS

- No consensus on what the “virtues” are, but...
  - Aristotle listed patience, amiability, honesty, wit

- Vallor has his own list (discussed in the reading):
  - Patience
  - Honesty
  - Empathy
  - Fidelity
  - Reciprocity
  - Tolerance

DISCUSSION: FACEBOOK AND THE VIRTUES

How does Facebook provide (or could provide) affordances to reinforce virtue and/or limit vice?

- Patience
- Honesty
- Empathy
- Fidelity
- Reciprocity
- Tolerance

· Vallor, Social Networking Technology and the Virtues (2010).
FOR YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT

- The notion of “virtues” may or may not be different in the online environment.

- If virtue ethics is about character development (positive or negative), are there examples of online/virtual environments where character development is a key part of the experience?
Additional Source Information
for more information see: http://open.umich.edu/wiki/CitationPolicy

