Due electronically by the start of class on Wednesday 8 December 2010

Grading: 20 points for social & ethical content, 155 points for writing

In the past decade, inexpensive digital cameras have become ubiquitous. Digital SLRs (DSLRs) have introduced entire generations to photography, and on-screen displays give instant feedback. Simple point-and-shoot cameras have "face-finding" modes to automatically focus on faces. Smart phones, and even not-so-smart phones, have cameras for taking still photos and videos.

This easy access to digital photography has positive social value. Citizen "journalists" can record newsworthy events and publish their videos to YouTube. Accidents can be documented with a photographic record. Family events can be shared with friends and family members via Facebook.

However, there can also be a darker side to this new technology. Embarrassing videos can be posted to YouTube, and humiliating photos published on FaceBook. Shows or concerts with copyrighted material can be video recorded surreptitiously. Terrorists can take high-quality photos of potential targets to aid in planning their activities.

Preventing such harmful uses can be difficult. Videos or photos must be found before they can be removed, but by then they may have been viewed by thousands. Some countries, such as the UK, are more restrictive on photographers than the US or most other Western countries. Kuwait just announced a total ban on the use of DSLRs in public places by non-journalists.

Write an essay of 6-7 pages on this topic, plus a separate reference list described below, which analyzes both the positive and negative value of this ubiquitous access to cameras, and the positive and negative aspects of restricting their use, using the ethical systems studied in this class.

As you research this topic, keep track of your sources, and include a reference list on a separate page at the end of the essay (i.e., turn in 6-7 pages for the body of the essay, plus a separate page for the references). Use whatever source material you want, including the class textbook and the web. However, your reference materials must include at least **four** references beyond the class textbook, and of those four, at least **one** must not be available on the web.

Take care to cite your reference sources properly as they are quoted or used in your essay. You should also use a consistent style for the citations in your reference list. One sample citation style is described in a link from the class web page, but you are welcome to use any others that you are familiar with.

Type your essay into a word processor such as Microsoft Word, Open Office, or Google Docs. On a single line at the top of the first page, type "Homework 9" and your name. Save the file in .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF format, and use **your last name**, a dash, and "**Homework9**" as the name of the file – e.g., "Walker-Homework9.doc". Format the essay as you did for Homework 8.

Submit the .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF file containing your essay to me electronically, via email to walker@cs.kent.edu or rawalke1@kent.edu with "Homework 9" as the subject of the email. I will reply to your email to confirm the receipt of your assignment.