Social & Ethical Issues

Due electronically by 9:15am on Monday 1 March 2010

Grading: 25 points for social & ethical content

- 1. Both Utilitarianism and Social Contract Theory can consider it acceptable to use a blacklist of spamming IP addresses, yet Kantianism considers that practice wrong. Why does a Kantian analysis give a different result?
- 2. The CAN SPAM act sounds like a good idea at first, but has been largely ineffective. Explain why this is the case.
- 3. What was the historical perspective for Kant's argument that people should think for themselves?
- 4. The Child Internet Protection Act requires libraries receiving federal networking funds to install software to filter out obscenity or child pornography. What ethical arguments could argue that it is wrong to do this?
- 5. In what way(s) does intellectual property different from physical property?

Submit your answers to me to me electronically as follows. You are welcome to (1) simply type your answers as the body of the email, or to (2) type your answers into a word processor such as Microsoft Word, Open Office, or Google Docs. In the latter case, save the file in .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF format, and use <u>your last name</u> and "<u>Homework4</u>" as the <u>beginning</u> of the file name(s). In either case, send your email to <u>walker@cs.kent.edu</u> or <u>rawalke1@kent.edu</u> with "<u>Homework 4</u>" as the subject of the email. As always, I will reply to your email to confirm the receipt of your assignment.