Writing Assignments:

Format: 3-4 page paper, 12 point times new roman, normal margins, single spaced, referenced using the format of your choice (but need to be properly applied and consistent). Turn in hard-copy at the start of lecture on due date.

Topics:

Paper 1: Using Ethical frameworks to argue pro’s and cons.
Study the actions of Edward Snowden and his collection and subsequent leak of classified information regarding US intelligence operations.

a. Give a brief summary of the facts of the case, as well as a chronology of events up to Mr. Snowden’s flight to Russia.

b. Briefly summarize the most important revelations from the information Mr. Snowden leaked.

c. Pick a workable ethical framework as presented in this class, and use it to justify Mr. Snowden’s actions. This does not have to match with Mr. Snowden’s own justifications, but must match the facts of the case.

d. Pick a workable ethical framework as presented in this class, and use it to justify the U.S. government’s actions leading up to, and following the leak. This justification does not have to match the official U.S. position, but needs to match the facts of the case.

e. You will be graded on the internal logic of your arguments, as well as your adherence to the ethical frameworks you chose.
Paper 2: Explain how the concept of Open Source fits into the legal framework of intellectual property rights as defined in the United States.
   1. Define what open source software is
   2. Describe how the different forms of intellectual property apply to Open Source projects
   3. Describe how the concept of intellectual property rights might be at odds with Open Source

Paper 3: Internet addiction.
Disconnect from the Internet for a period of 48 continuous hours.

- You are not allowed to access email, play online games, stream movies, surf the web, use facebook, tweet, etc., or be in the presence of people who are doing these things (for group activities like watching movies, or watching others play games, surf the web etc.)
- These 48 hours must occur in a normal setting, no going off camping, shutting yourself off from the world etc. you must attempt to engage in what would be normal day-to-day activities over that period of time.
- Document your experience; what did you end up doing differently, what was hardest about this assignment, what did you miss the most, what did you find most disruptive, what were the reactions of those around you.
- Finally, what was the most rewarding part of doing this assignment, and what did you learn about your own relationship with technology.