

History and Philosophy of the Information Society

Thursday March 31, 2011

18.30-20.30 hours

Part Computer and Law (suggestion 30 minutes)

Nota bene: Don't forget that the answers for the two parts should be given on separate sheets! Don't forget to put your name and number on all sheets.

Question 1

In what way and for what purpose can the right of privacy be restricted. Give two examples in a national and international context.

Question 2

John is selling virtual hair in Second Life, a three dimensional virtual world. John lives in the Netherlands, and startles when he receives a fine of 1500 euro for not presenting a physical address and e-mail address. The Consumer Authority claims he has to on the basis of Article 5 of the Ecommerce Directive. John claims he is not an information society service provider, and therefore the Article does not apply. Such a service is defined as:

any service normally provided for remuneration, at a distance, by means of electronic equipment for the processing (including digital compression) and storage of data, and at the individual request of a recipient of a service.

If you were a lawyer who had to defend John, what would you argue?
(remuneration= money paid for services)

Part History (suggestion 90 minutes)

Nota bene: Don't forget that the answers for the two parts should be given on separate sheets! Don't forget to put your name and number on all sheets.

Question

Write a coherent essay on the development of information processing by man in the course of history. You should try to cover the entire history of mankind. Try to indicate when and why what you are describing happened and relate what you are describing to the kind of society it happened in.

(The word information is used in the broad sense of the word.)