

Wired News



By
Darren McGaghan
Technology Outreach Coordinator
Northeastern Ontario Communications Network

Plagiarism Easier Than Ever

The internet can often be used as a useful tool for students, such as research and long distance education. However, it can also be used as a tool to cheat your way through your entire degree or diploma.

The most prominent form of cheating is through online term papers. This form of plagiarism has become so severe that companies have been formed to combat it. Also, some computer programming students outsource their projects in the same fashion as companies outsource their programming, often hiring experts to do their work.

Academic institutions are becoming more aware of plagiarism practices and taking precautionary steps to prevent it. However, with the complexities of

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the internet and other information transmitting devices, plagiarism will more than likely remain an everyday component of post-secondary education for many.

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Sale of Personal Information Legal

After banking and medical records, the sale of personal cell phone records may be the most serious form of privacy invasion. Although obtaining phone records under false pretenses, referred to as "pretexting" is illegal, selling phone records is legal.



Cell phone records are legally sold online to meet the demands of lawyers, journalists and criminals who often claim ignorance of the ways in which the information they purchased is obtained.

Verizon Wireless was victim to online brokers who obtained thousands of private phone records from them while posing as speech-impaired customers and company employees. Since there is no federal action, phone companies have resorted to civil lawsuits to prevent sellers from obtaining and selling records. Verizon is not just concerned about harm to customers, but federal law requires phone companies to protect the privacy of their customer network information.

This case demonstrates the complexities that we will face in terms of protecting individual rights throughout the information technology age.

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Mobile Karaoke Too Much

If you hate bad singers as much as Simon Cowell, your life may have just gotten a lot worse. Now those hopeful idol contestants can fruitfully display their karaoke skills, or lack of, whenever wherever with the help of their cellphones. That's right, cell phone distributors are now offering a karaoke application for their self-embarassing customers.



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Wireless Internet Health Concern

Fred Gilbert, president of Lakehead University, will not allow wireless internet to dominate his campus until he is satisfied that EMF (electric and magnetic fields) exposure doesn't pose a health risk.

Since there is not enough information on potential long-term effects, Gilbert refuses to put his students at risk of chronic exposure. Although some students may feel that lack of wireless internet is an inconvenience, Gilbert believes that safety should come first.

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StopBadware.org Lifesaver

StopBadware.org is a free website that plans to provide a list of programs that contain spyware and other malicious software. Their goal is to make the internet more accountable by listing the companies who produce and distribute "badware." Badware can result in viruses, an increase in pop-ups, the leak of personal information and costly repairs. Thus, this free website can be a useful tool in helping consumers make better choices regarding downloading.



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www.stopbadware.org

Making The Most of Technology

As technology becomes more widely used by organizations, there is a greater need to have a technology plan. Having a technology plan is essential to evaluating one's existing technology infrastructure, as well as budgeting for the future. TechSoup created a comprehensive outline describing what your organization's technology plan should include in order to make the most of technology. The plan discusses IT needs, policies and procedures, management practices, strengthening existing infrastructure, ergonomics as well as other beneficial practices.

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