

CSCI E-170 Lecture 08: Academic Honesty, Introduction to the Computer Science Literature, Authentication & Biometrics

Simson L. Garfinkel
Center for Research on Computation and Society
Harvard University
November 14, 2005

Outline

- HW4 - Canceled
- Quiz - redux
- How to use the CS literature
- Midterm papers - discussion
- Passwords
- Biometrics

Midterm Quiz #1

Problems encountered on the quiz:

- A few students took more than the allotted time.
- Many of the students inappropriately cited their materials.

“Open Book” and “Open Internet” does not mean that you have a license to plagiarize.

Life is “open book.”

Question #4:

- 4-1. What is Bugnosis?
- 4-2. How does Bugnosis work?
- 4-3. Would you run Bugnosis?
- 4-4. What is the difference between Bugnosis and Privacy Bird?

Questions 4-1 can be answered from the Bugnosis FAQ and the Bugnosis paper.... Should you?

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's ideas and work.

Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, the theft is the same.

A computer program written as part of the student's academic work is, like a paper, expected to be the student's original work and subject to the same standards of representation.

In the preparation of work submitted to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper, project, take-home exam, computer program, or other written assignment, students must take great care to distinguish their own ideas and language from information derived from sources.

Sources include published primary and secondary materials, the Internet, and information and opinions gained directly from other people.

Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a student's reading and research, the sources must be properly cited.

[http://www.extension.harvard.edu/2005-06/register/
policies/responsible.jsp](http://www.extension.harvard.edu/2005-06/register/policies/responsible.jsp)

4-1. What is Bugnosis?

BUGNOSIS¹ IS A PRIVACY ANALYSIS TOOL FOR THE TYPICAL END USER. Like Privacy Bird (described in the previous chapter), Bugnosis is a benevolent snoop: it taps into your web browser so that it can deduce the privacy characteristics of the web sites you visit. It uses some of the same Internet Explorer facilities as Privacy Bird, and presents results with a similar balance of approachability and charm as opposed to technical detail. But these two IE add-ons are concerned with different parts of the web privacy question. Privacy Bird uses the Platform for Privacy Preferences (P3P) to decide whether a web site's privacy *policy* is consistent with the user's desires, and Bugnosis identifies a particular type of web site privacy *practice*—one that says a lot about the nature of the Web—namely, the use of web bugs to gather information about web users.²

This is the first sentence of a 5000 word chapter about Bugnosis.

It is not a one-sentence answer to the question

Is this statement even correct?

4-1. What is Bugnosis?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Bugnosis FAQ". The address bar displays "http://www.bugnosis.org/faq.html". The page content is titled "What is Bugnosis?" and contains the following text: "Bugnosis is a Web bug detector. As you surf the Web, it analyzes every page you visit and alerts you when it finds any Web bugs. With Bugnosis, you don't have to be a computer expert to tell when your browsing habits are being observed." The page is decorated with small, yellow, cartoonish bug icons.

**This answer from the FAQ is a better answer.
If you use it, you must reference it.**

Don't use quotation as a substitute for thinking.

Question #4 (15 points)

This question concerns Chapter 23. Privacy Analysis for the Casual User with Bugnosis David Martin, in Cranor and Garfinkel

4-1. What is Bugnosis?

"A Web bug is a graphic on a Web page or in an e-mail message designed to monitor who is reading the page or message. Web bugs are often invisible because they are typically only 1-by-1 pixels in size. In many cases, Web bugs are placed on Web pages by third parties interested in collecting data about visitors to those pages." (<http://www.bugnosis.org/faq.html>)

**This answer doesn't answer the question.
(Citation is okay.)**

This question is directly answerable by a citation.

4-4. What is the difference between Bugnosis and Privacy Bird?

“Privacy Bird uses the Platform for Privacy Preferences (P3P) to decide whether a web site’s privacy policy is consistent with the user’s desires. Bugnosis identifies a particular type of web site privacy practice, namely the use of web bugs to gather information about web users.” (p 493)

This answer shows no thought or understanding.

This answer shows thought.

4-1. What is Bugnosis? It is a program that tries to detect if a website is using webbugs. It notifies the user with a toolbar and an information window.

4-2. How does Bugnosis work? It works by analyzing loaded webpages in IE. It looks for small hidden images that are often used by third parties to have a machine load a cookie which the company can then use to track a user. Bugnosis integrates itself into IE and uses a toolbar to notify a user about its findings and to adjust its settings.

4-3. Would you run Bugnosis? Yes, I actually do run Bugnosis (for a couple weeks) because I find it interesting to see what sites are collecting more information than others. I visited various government, political, and financial sites that I thought would use webbugs, but I've found media websites like foxnews.com and cnn.com seem to track me the most.

4-4. What is the difference between Bugnosis and Privacy Bird?

Bugnosis investigates website content to determine whether webpages are being used where Privacy Bird users P3P, Platform for Privacy Preferences, to decide whether a “web site’s policy is consistent with the user’s desires”.

This is not an acceptable citation

4-1. What is Bugnosis? Software to detect web bugs.

4-2. How does Bugnosis work? From:

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,15783,00.asp

This is not
an acceptab
citat

True to its name, Bugnosis analyzes the pages that you visit and alerts you when it finds any of these pesky things. It runs a battery of tests on each suspicious graphic on a Web page when you first open it. If the program finds a possible Web bug, it alerts you with a sound ("uh-oh!") and makes the culprit visible, so you can see where it is placed on the Web page.

In some cases Bugnosis allows you to send an e-mail to the party that placed the Web bug. Bugnosis works only with Internet Explorer (version 5.0 or later).

4-3. Would you run Bugnosis? I am not much encouraged to do so, I visit a limited number of sites, almost all is bookmarked. I know they must be collecting data about some of my activities but so far, I do not feel I really need to hide any of that.

The Computer Science Literature: Where is it?

1. CiteSeer.IST

<http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/cs>

2. ACM Digital Library

<http://www.acm.org/dl/>

3. IEEE Xplore

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/>

4. Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com/>

5. Google

<http://www.google.com>

Roughly ordered.