

soctech@cs

UW-CSE society and technology
interest group

Keunwoo Lee

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The Big Picture

- Computing technology transforms society
- Society reacts:
 - Digital Millennium Copyright Act: Felten v. RIAA
 - Cryptography export: Bernstein v. US Dept. of Justice
 - ...many more examples
- Lawyers and politicians make laws; we let them
- We must make our voices heard

The Little Picture

- We can't change the whole world at once
- We can work locally in the UW community to build bridges across disciplines
 - Educate lawmakers of tomorrow, and general public, about CS point of view
 - Educate ourselves about law, public policy, etc.
- CSE has made only fragmentary efforts
 - Some coverage in CSE 100, 490c/303, 401, 500; new public policy course in PMP program
 - We can do more, and better

Groups elsewhere at UW

- **Center for Internet Studies**
 - New center to promote interdisciplinary collaboration on social/technological issues
- **Law School**
 - Technology & Law Society: student club
 - Significant interest from law profs
- **Business Technology club?**
- **Information School**

...probably others we've never heard of. Just connecting with these groups is a step forward.

Goals

- Short-term:
 - Start talking to students, professors in other depts.
 - **Winter '05: 590 seminar on intellectual property**
 - White papers
 - Invite speakers for talks
- Long-term:
 - Make seminar permanent, sustainable
 - Work with CIS on ongoing activities
 - Wider-access course on society and technology issues?

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- Mailing list
- Perhaps semi-regular meetings
- All info on CSE PublicWiki:
<http://abstract.cs.washington.edu/wiki/>
(click on “Society and technology”)
- Email me when you sign up, to put your name on my radar

Meta-Note: Take ownership

- CSE dept. gives grad students exceptional amount of responsibility and trust
- Don't just ride passively. Take ownership of the dept. and get involved with its future direction.