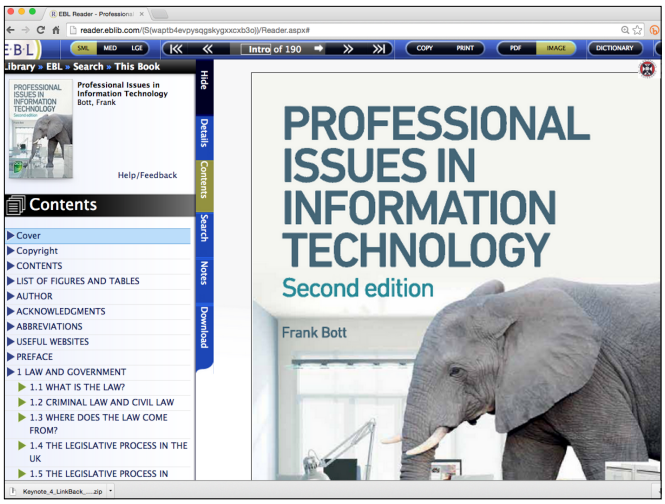
PROFESSIONAL ISSUES
Setting the Agenda

MICHAEL FOURMAN

No man is an island…

- Social, economic, ethical, and legal frameworks shape the software/hardware ecosystem.
- Architectures, operating systems, programming languages, applications, companies, and individuals, rise and fall.
- Society guarantees some rights, and imposes many responsibilities and obligations. You have to live and work within this framework, and contribute to its future development.
- Non-technical forces will play a role in shaping what you can achieve. To understand some of these forces may be helpful.

  http://www.bcs.org/upload/pdf/dippispsyll.pdf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PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Second edition
Frank Bott

Government and Law

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bcs
The Chartered Institute for IT

Enabling the information society

Computing Profession

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2.8 MEMBERSHIP GRADES
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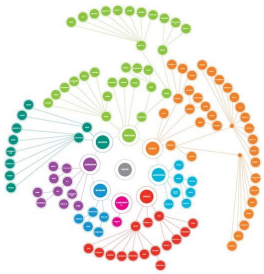
Companies and Organisations



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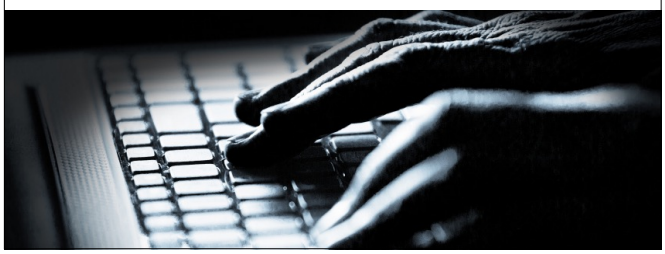
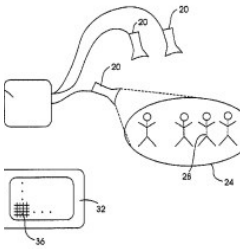


Further Issues?

ethics, competition, and monopoly

- Software patents
- Proprietary standards
- Vendor lock-in
- Open standards
- Open source
- Open rights
- …



U.S. Patent No. 7,688,349,
"Method of Detecting and Tracking Groups of People."

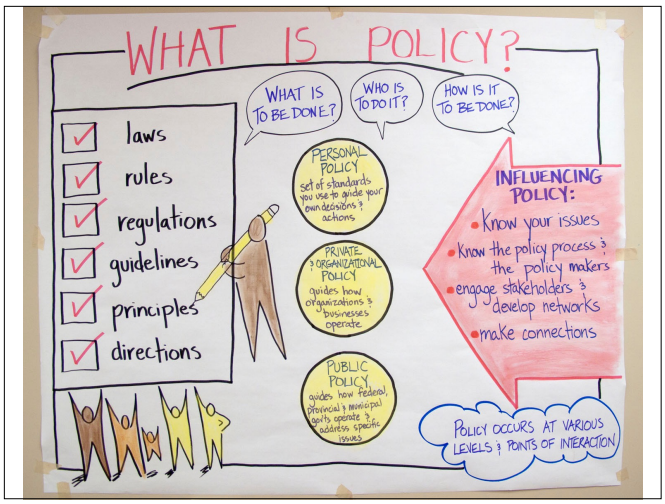
http://www.theguardian.com/comment/story/0,3604,1646125,00.html

Policy

http://www.coadec.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Startup-Manifesto.pdf

policies to support the digital economy, calling for the government to:

- Improve access to finance
- Improve access to talent
- Build world class digital infrastructure
- Bring laws and regulations into the 21st Century
- Use digital government to unlock innovation


WHAT IS POLICY?
WHAT IS TO BE DONE?
WHO IS TO DO IT?
HOW IS IT TO BE DONE?
laws
rules
regulations
guidelines
principles
directions
PERSONAL POLICY
set of standards you use to guide your own decisions & actions
PRIVATE / ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY
guides how organizations & businesses operate
PUBLIC POLICY
guides how federal, provincial & municipal govts operate & address specific issues
INFLUENCING POLICY:
Know your issues
Know the policy process & the policy makers
engage stakeholders & develop networks
make connections
POLICY OCCURS AT VARIOUS LEVELS & POINTS OF INTERACTION

Straw Poll

Government and Law	45	
Computing Profession	7	
Companies and Organisations	59	
Finance Accounting and Investment	71	
Human Resources and Discrimination	35	
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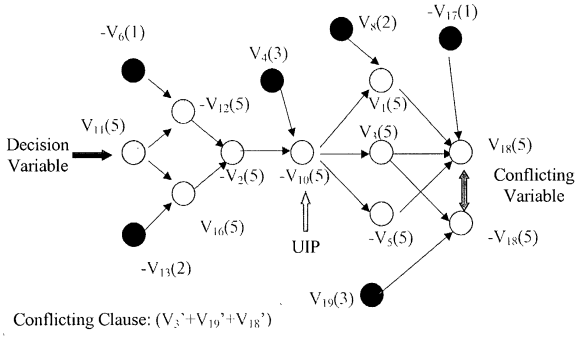
Owning ideas

http://www.theguardian.com/comment/story/0,3604,1646125,00.html

- Should Hoare have patented quicksort?
- Find an example of an idea claimed as property (one way is to search for patents owned by Facebook, Twitter, Google, etc.)
- How do the points raised in the article apply to this idea?
- Be prepared for discussion.
- Mail URL and two or three sentences to michael.fourman@ed.ac.uk from your student account.

Watched Literals

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