

CS6452 - Exam 3

Please email your answers back to me by Thursday 11/30 at noon sharp. This is an individual exam, so please do not consult others in the class.

1. In class we discussed how technical systems often depend on the use of unique identifiers for entities such as people (as in the case of our database examples, and in the chat program), conversations (as in the case of our IM server protocol), and so forth. The use of such identifiers often leads to a tension between robustness of the technical systems and privacy of end users. Discuss at least four factors that, as a designer, you might use to govern your decision about whether and how to use such unique identifiers in an application. Describe how each of these factors might argue for or against using such identifiers, or how such identifiers should be architected. [1 page max]

2. The paper "Listening In: Practices Surrounding iTunes Music Sharing" (see website) focuses on the use of a networking technology (iTunes music sharing) and its role in sociability in the workplace. The paper identifies a number of problematic areas, in which the technical system does not fully support peoples' desires for sociability. Discuss three ways you might alter the iTunes technology (architecture and/or protocols, not just user interface) to better support sociability. [1 page max]