I began this prelab by deciding to read: “The Internet of Things Needs a Code of Ethics”, and “Laws and Ethics Can’t Keep Pace with Technology”. Each of these articles described the massive growth of technology and the internet and how laws and regulations used to safeguard it have not kept up pace with technologies massive growth. Both of these articles stuck out because they talk about different issues regarding ethics used in businesses in today’s world.

The first article that I decided use was “The Internet of Things Needs a Code of Ethics”. The article begins by explaining how DVR’s and webcams across the United States were hacked which lead to a large portion of the internet being disrupted. The author, Kaveh Waddell, explains that as of this moment in time there are no regulations regarding this issue. There is no legal system that can control people taking over the internet like this. There are in all reality no repercussions to the person who causes all of these issues if they can’t be caught. In many of these cases the people who have the skills to hack and take down part of a website or potentially the internet know how to avoid being caught.

The next major part of the article explains that it’s not only the legal repercussion on the internet, but there is also no ethical system that is attached to the internet. Anyone from anywhere who has access to the internet is able to say or do anything that they want. There is very little to control a person from getting on the internet and causing mayhem rather than helping anyone. Waddell has an interview with Francine Berman who wrote an article in, “Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery”. Berman explains that in the next coming years much of the internet and technology in general will become automated. This means that humans will have more ability to do things and the machines behind that will also be smarter. She explains that with both of these things happening governance over the internet is very key. Anything people will be able to do now, they will be able to do in much larger areas.

The second article I decided to read was “Laws and Ethics Can’t Keep Pace with Technology”. The very first sentence in this article explains how employers are not allowed to ask interviewees about their religion, sexual preference, or political affiliation. However, all that the employer has to do is go to any of their social media to have a chance of finding this information about. There are several social media websites that could potentially give an employer an idea of the applicant’s stance on controversial issues. There are even computer algorithms that can be used to see if a person is socially desirable for the workspace. These are just a few examples of how laws of regulation and ethics have not kept up with technology that can be used daily.

The author explains how this kind of issue has happened before in the past; when the printing press was first invented it was detrimental to political and religious elites because news was much more accessible to the general public. Suddenly everything that they were doing was much easier to be seen and heard. In a similar case the steam engine was invented and it was in the air about who owned the tracks and how it was controlled where they were taken. There was no code to help people or property that were damaged in the use of the steam engines.

The advancement of technology in the speed that it has taken off similarly does not have a lot of these regulations. Many people believe that there is no real code of ethics that people need to follow when using the internet. Ethics is a very large umbrella that covers topics beneath it. Personal privacy is one of the issues that falls under ethics. Nearly any personal information that is entered on the internet is accessible to the company that it was sent to. If something was to happen to that company there is very little to protect that private information.
Before reading these article’s, I had not thought a whole lot about technology and ethics. I use the internet on a daily basis. I use it to buy things, I use it to read about things I’m interested in, and I use it to play games or waste time. Nearly every website that I have created an account on asked for some personal information of mine. Whenever I buy something online I have to put in payment information and home address to get the item delivered. Now that I think about it lots of different places have access to personal information about me. These two articles showed me that there is very little protecting me or my information. These things follow under the thought of ethics which is a very broad topic. I did not put a lot of thought into ethics on the internet. I always knew that anyone was able to get on the internet and say whatever they wanted. There is very few ways of tracking the user back unless a person is very well versed with technology. This has opened my eyes to how vague things on the internet can be taken.

These articles give many examples of how anyone can take advantage of the shady ethics and security on the internet. It is not very hard to take advantage of the system that is in place currently. There definitely needs to be some change towards how the system works. I do not think that it should be something that the government controls. A governing body as powerful as the government could begin to take away things like free speech. However, that is a totally different topic. There needs to be an upper power to help keep technology and ethics connected. This would help everyone involved and make things more secure overall.

The main topic discussed in both articles is the use of technology and how there is very little controlling the ethical use of the internet. The major takeaway would be that there needs to be beginning of protecting everyone’s privacy and especially their ethics. There needs to be a line drawn that defines ethics and how they should be protected. Overall, there is very little helping the average person who uses the internet daily.

1. How does one government or body of people begin helping the ethics of people who live all over the world?
2. How can this issue be slowed down to be dealt with?
3. With anonymity protecting internet users across the world, how does anyone find the source of all these problems?