For this term paper you can choose one of two sorts: social implications or ethical issues.

In a **social implications** paper, you choose an area of technology and identify possibly hidden tendencies, i.e. ways in which this technology affects society. Describe the technology and its current state and find and present research results about the effects of this technology on society. Then make an ethical judgment about the pros and cons of the technology. Is it good for society overall, or are the costs too high? How might we modify or limit use of this technology for the good of society?

For example, you might choose violent video games. Describe the current situation and find research about the effects of violent video games on youth, etc. Describe and critique social/ethical treatments of the issue by others. Then make a judgment about the benefits and costs to society and argue for a position about how such technology should be treated. For example, you might argue that for the good of society violent video games ought to be controlled by law, so that minors can’t buy A-rated games.

In an **ethical issues** paper, the concern is more directly on the ethics of a certain computing-related issue. Identify an issue and explain the current situation. Survey ethical opinions others have given and respond to them. Then analyze the ethics of the situation and make an ethics case for a certain course of action. Your ethical reasoning should be thorough, identifying stakeholders, and using explicitly Christian principles (or utilitarian or some other sort, if you prefer, but be clear about what you are doing).

For example, you might choose Calvin’s use of Internet filtering as a topic. You would identify the problem and the current situation. Survey responses that others have given and critique their ethical arguments. Finally, state your own position (e.g. that it is unethical for Calvin to censor students’ use of the Internet) and give a solid ethical argument supporting your position.

Your paper should be eight pages (double-spaced) in length, typed/computer printed, and it should have several appropriate references to outside sources covering relevant research, other people’s ethical analyses, etc. You should have at least four references to relevant journal articles, book chapters, etc.—i.e. to scholarly sources. You will be asked to make a 10-minute presentation of your paper, followed by time for student questions and discussion. Your paper will be due at the time of your presentation.

Possible topics include aspects of intellectual property law, online file sharing, privacy, effects of technology on education, cognition, or social life, online dating, the digital divide, women in computing, etc. Please email me a tentative topic before spring break.

Your grade will depend on your following these instructions and on the quality and thoroughness of your research, reasoning, writing, and presentation. This project constitutes 25% of the final grade for this course. Grading rubrics include:

- Submits a tentative topic before spring break
- Turns in a paper draft one week before your presentation date
- Final paper due at the time of the presentation
- Makes a nice presentation to class
- Paper explains the technical issues, current situation
- Covers related research/other ethical opinions
- Clearly states a thesis
- Makes a good, convincing social or ethical argument for thesis
- Uses appropriate references and uses them appropriately
- Writes clearly and accurately
- Organizes material well and uses section headings appropriately