Collaboration Policy

Spring 2015

Important: Please indicate your understanding and agreement to these course policies by electronically signing the contract linked to at the bottom of this document. You will not receive any grades until we have your e-signature on file.

This document outlines CS 1951-E’s policies regarding collaboration and the acceptable use of skills taught in this course. We expect that you read this document carefully and understand all of its concepts. Please consult with the course staff (John and the TAs) if you have any misunderstanding of this policy. Assume that this policy applies unless otherwise specified by the assignment. If you violate this policy, you may be subject to university disciplinary action.

Collaboration Policies

Collaboration on Lecture Content
You may discuss material covered in lecture (and any associated readings) and high level concepts with anyone, including the course staff, students in the course, and others.

Collaboration on Homework and Blog Posts
You may not discuss the homework/blog post assignments with anyone except the CS1951e course staff. You may consult outside sources, but you must cite them, and all analysis must be your own.

Collaboration on Programming Projects
Course Staff You may discuss any aspect of the projects with the TAs or the Professor.

Current CS 1951-E Students You should do your own thinking, your own design of attacks, and your own coding. You may consult with other students regarding technical issues about the languages, frameworks, or systems involved in the assignments, as long as the issues are narrow and do not help with the problem-solving process at large. You may help another student debug their code if he or she is stuck on a specific low-level problem that has been impeding progress on the work. In essence, you may not let yourself be led by another student to the extent that your task becomes significantly less challenging because of your discussion with him or her. Finally, you may never copy code from another student, and you should be sure to protect your files using appropriate linux permissions.

Outside Sources You may only consult outside sources to look up technical details about the languages, frameworks, or systems involved in the assignments, but you may not consult outside sources that describe specific attacks. You should never copy code from an outside source.
The following table summarizes the collaboration policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CS 1951-E Staff</th>
<th>CS 1951-E Students</th>
<th>Outside Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeworks and Blog Posts</td>
<td>May discuss any aspect</td>
<td>May not consult</td>
<td>May consult if cited. Analysis must be your own.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming Assignments</td>
<td>May discuss any aspect</td>
<td>May consult only for narrow</td>
<td>May consult outside sources to look up technical information about the languages,</td>
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<td>questions about systems, languages,</td>
<td>frameworks, or systems involved, but not about specific attacks.</td>
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<td>or frameworks involved as long as</td>
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<td>it does not help with the problem-</td>
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<td>solving process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Content</td>
<td>May discuss any aspect</td>
<td>May discuss any aspect</td>
<td>May consult.</td>
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</table>

Piazza

CS1951e will be using Piazza to facilitate intra-course communication. When posting questions to Piazza, students must consider whether to post the question publically or privately, as descriptive questions can disclose the solutions to the assignments. So, please follow these guidelines when posting to Piazza:

- **Please post or answer publicly:** Misunderstandings of the assignment, clarifications about the requirements, bugs in the assignment spec or support code, small, specific questions about the languages, frameworks, or systems involved with an assignment that do not refer to any potential vulnerabilities.

- **Please post or answer privately:** More than a few lines of code, explanations of the attacks involved in your solutions, questions about your grade, etc.

Please use your best judgement between these two examples. If you post privately, please let us know whether or not it would be ok to mark it as public if we feel that it would be beneficial to the class.

Ethical and Legal Issues

Some of the techniques covered in this course are unethical and/or illegal to use and apply in contexts beyond the course itself. Breaking into, misusing, or harming computer systems or networks is illegal and punishable by law, if done without the explicit authorization of the owner. There are various legal restrictions applicable to removing DRM protection from copyrighted content, without prior authorization by the copyright owner. Attacking computers at Brown whether owned by Brown or by others, except as specifically assigned in this course, is a violation of Browns Computer Policy and may lead to disciplinary action.

Contract

Please go to [https://docs.google.com/a/brown.edu/forms/d/1-ZUQl1YREwpDJXlEeMDSFbQigUl1vUFLp0KryImd9U/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/brown.edu/forms/d/1-ZUQl1YREwpDJXlEeMDSFbQigUl1vUFLp0KryImd9U/viewform) to sign an online form indicating your understanding and agreement to these policies. We cannot grade your work until your e-signature is on file.