

Social Contract

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COMS 465

Three Main Points

- The history of social contract
- Facebook's contract
- Why it is important to read the terms and conditions

Social Contract

The social contract or political contract originated in the Enlightenment period.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Du* - This contract questions the political and social problems and the legitimacy of the government to protect and defend.

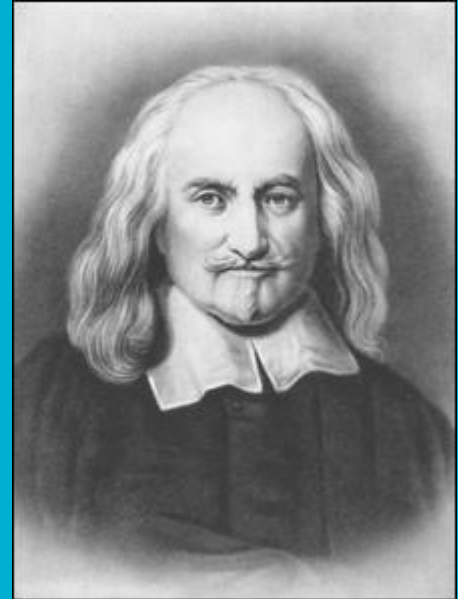


Thomas Hobbes

A contract is created when individuals who are self-interested decide to create a right (for a man to kill another man) if the other self-interested individual agrees.

“Mutual transferring of rights”

State of Nature - a war against all



John Locke

Natural condition of mankind was not a battleground where it is every man for himself

The state of nature provides a law naturally that all being equal individuals one must respect another's life health liberty and possessions

If a man is free and is living his life perfectly fine without rules and believes that he is equal to the greatest why would he give up his happiness to follow someone else's rules

Humans naturally create a social contract by agreeing to work together under some form of mutual agreement

Virtual Worlds

The natural condition of Mankind, the state of nature

Social reality in which humans already find themselves

State of Nature = Virtual reality

Virtual reality - real in effect but not in fact

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Connected to lambda.moo.mud.org.
Escape character is '^]'.

*****
* Welcome to LambdaMOO! *
*****

Running Version 1.8.3+47 of LambdaMOO

PLEASE NOTE:
  LambdaMOO is a new kind of society, where thousands of people voluntarily
  come together from all over the world. What these people say or do may not
  always be to your liking; as when visiting any international city, it is wise
  to be careful who you associate with and what you say.
  The operators of LambdaMOO have provided the materials for the buildings of
  this community, but are not responsible for what is said or done in them. In
  particular, you must assume responsibility if you permit minors or others to
  access LambdaMOO through your facilities. The statements and viewpoints
  expressed here are not necessarily those of the wizards, Pavel Curtis,
  or Roger Crew, and those parties disclaim any responsibility for them.

NOTICE FOR JOURNALISTS AND RESEARCHERS:
  The citizens of LambdaMOO request that you ask for permission from all
  direct participants before quoting any material collected here.

For assistance either now or later, type `help'.
The lag is low; there are 69 connected.
█
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LambdaMOO

- First generation social networks using a virtual reality world
- Text based descriptions and keyboard commands where users can communicate with each other and interact in a virtual world on a computer generated environment
- It was designed so users can move in a physical reality only created by the words that are typed on the keyboard
- The “wizards” of LambdaMOO got tired of creating the social environment so they decided to leave it up to the community of LambdaMOO

4 Months after the wizards left, there was the first rape in cyberspace

Mr. Bungle

VooDoo Doll

The community of LambdaMOO “let it slide”

After leaving the Wizards as “just technicians” the line was slim between what was technical and social



Community members of LambdaMOO were looking for authority from the Wizards

LTAND (LambdaMOO take a new direction)

LTAD (LambdaMOO takes another direction)

Because the Wizards already made it a law that they were out of the social decisions, they needed to say that it was LEGAL for them to come back into LambdaMOO to make social decisions

Although new members were encouraged to read the “help” option in the library, there was no actual contract that the users of LambdaMOO were forced to agree to

Facebook



Facebook was created to give the opportunity for individuals to have more power to share and connect

When creating an account with FaceBook you are to agree to a contract before participating

The reason people share more and like facebook so much is because there is a lot of freedom but there are also rules and guidelines, which makes people feel safe and free at the same time

- Being able to protect yourself from other users

Two different Facebook Agreements

Mark Zuckerberg - creator of facebook

One Terms of Use document was not the direction facebook was trying to go

- Facebook Principles (reasons they will consider)
- Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (governs relationship with users)

Just by using facebook and participating in social media, you are agreeing to this “social contract”

Facebook continued

The contract is more of a political agreement than it is a contract (Bill of Rights)

- Many other social media sites or online applications use “the user” or “player” as the subject of their contracts, Facebook uses “the people” much like a political agreement would
- If you participate in Facebook you are made a subject of facebook



1) have the freedom to connect and share information with others

2) own the information they provide and have the ability to control this information

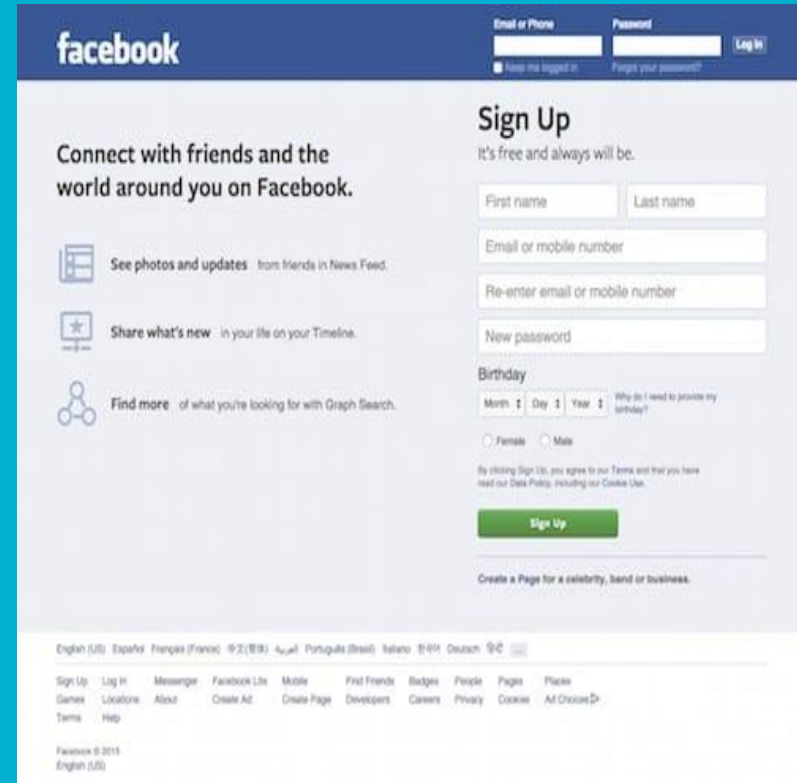
3) have the freedom to access information made available to them

4) have the right to equal treatment and a belief in the fundamental equality of all persons

5) have the freedom to build trust and reputation through personal identity and interaction with others

6) have the inherent right to communicate and access to the means of communication, and

7) be able to use Facebook irrespective of individual commitment or level of contribution.



Statement of Rights and Responsibilities

Although you have the right to your own property and can do whatever you please with it, so does facebook.

- Whatever you post on facebook (pictures, videos, blogs) facebook has the right to use it however they want.
- Not only can they use it, they can sell it and you (the user) should never expect any money or recognition for the use of your property because you agreed to give facebook everything as soon as you posted it
- Even if you deactivate your site, Facebook still has the right to use anything you have ever posted

- Facebook likes to think they give the users of the site a chance to have a say in what guidelines are to be followed on the site
- Facebook has the opportunity to change any statement with a notice to the user
- They are allowed to give your information to the government



One World

One World brings people together from all over the world. It is giving the community of facebook the opportunity to act as if they are in one world.

Facebook should be available to everyone in the world

Facebook is the 5th largest nation



Why it is important to read the contract

- If you don't read the contract, you won't know how to properly follow the rules
- They can and will use everything you post
- Must know what can be gained but also what can be lost
- What are your reasons?