

Programming Abstractions

CS106B

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Today's Topics

1. Final exam discussion

- Details/logistics, topics, sources for practice problems

2. Quarter wrap-up

- Putting it all together: what have we accomplished together this quarter?

3. What next?

- Options for continuing your passion for CS after this quarter is done
- Preview of CS107: security exploits in C/C++

End of Quarter Info



End of Quarter Details

- Week 10 assignment schedule:
 - › Assignment 7 is out now and due 12/1
 - › Huffman Coding!
- Week 10 lecture schedule:
 - › Monday: quarter wrap-up lecture
 - › Wednesday: ethics roundtable discussion
 - › Friday: no official lecture, we'll have something halfway between a lecture and office hours style time for final exam review

Final Exam Info



Final Exam Details

- **Monday, December 6th**
- The testing period will **between 12:01am PST and 11:59pm PST.**
- Unless you've been told otherwise, you will have **3 hours** to take the final.
- It will be administered on Gradescope.
- The exam is open-book, open-notes, open-internet, open-compiler.
- The exam is strictly **closed to assistance from other people** or Q&A forums of any kind (e.g., StackOverflow). See the written exam policies on the course website for more information. Violation of any aspect of this policy will be reported to the Office of Community Standards as an Honor Code violation.

Final Exam Topics

- ADTs
- Recursion
- Backtracking
- Big-O analysis
- Pointers and dynamic memory, linked lists
- Classes and objects
- Binary heaps
- Binary search trees (BSTs)
- Tree traversals
- Light coverage: Sorting algorithms, Graphs, Hashing

Final Exam Study Strategy

- Don't memorize things—either write it in notes*, or learn the concept
 - › If you've got flash cards, you're approaching this with the wrong mindset
 - › No big multiple choice/true-false section where memorized facts would be tested
 - › * even though the exam is open-book, it would be a useful exercise to make a 1-pager notes sheet
- **Read the book** (but only in a targeted way)
 - › Computer science is about creating things, so do some practice problems
 - › Re-do questions from lecture, do old section problems, do the practice exam
 - › Look at lecture videos or book as needed for review of things you identify as weak points when solving problems
- Do the practice exam
 - › As with the midterm, the practice exam gives you practice not only with topics but with the logistics of taking an exam on Gradescope

Big O Quick Reference (see also <http://bigocheatsheet.com/>)

What	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hash table average case (good design)	$O(1)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balanced trees<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heap, BST with balancing such as Red-Black• Binary search on sorted array	$O(\log n)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linked list find• Inserting into beginning of array/Vector• Hash table worst case• Unbalanced tree (e.g. unbalanced BST) worst case	$O(n)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good sorting<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mergesort, Heapsort, Quicksort (expected)	$O(n \log n)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bad sorting<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insertion, Bubble, Selection, Quicksort (worst case)	$O(n^2)$

Quarter Wrap-Up

WHAT DID WE SET OUT TO DO
IN THE BEGINNING?
WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Goals for this Course

- **Learn how to model and solve complex problems with computers.**
- To that end:
 - Explore common **abstractions** for representing problems.
 - Harness **recursion** and understand how to think about problems recursively.
 - Bring added rigor to your understanding of **algorithmic performance**, so you can quantitatively compare approaches for solving problems.

From here on out, there are no obvious answers to any problem worth your hourly rate. 😊

- Programming is all about exploring new ways to **model** and **solve** problems.
- There are **choices** and **tradeoffs** in how we model these and how we implement them!
- Skilled computer scientists recognize that any problem worth tackling has *many* possible models and *many* possible solutions, often none of which is clearly better than the others in all dimensions
 - Array or linked list? BST or hash table?
 - **Tradeoffs!**

That's a lot of material to cover in 10 weeks

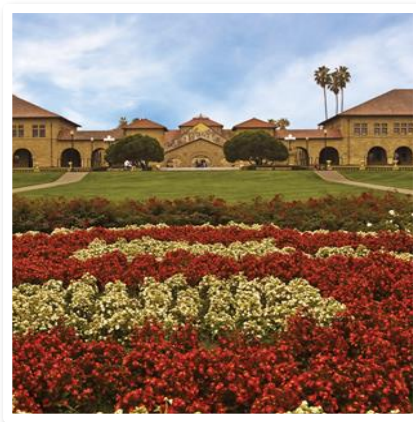
You are part of a very challenging course,
in the best CS department *in the world*,
and you are so, so close to completing this course!

Congratulations!!
You've almost made it through CS106B!

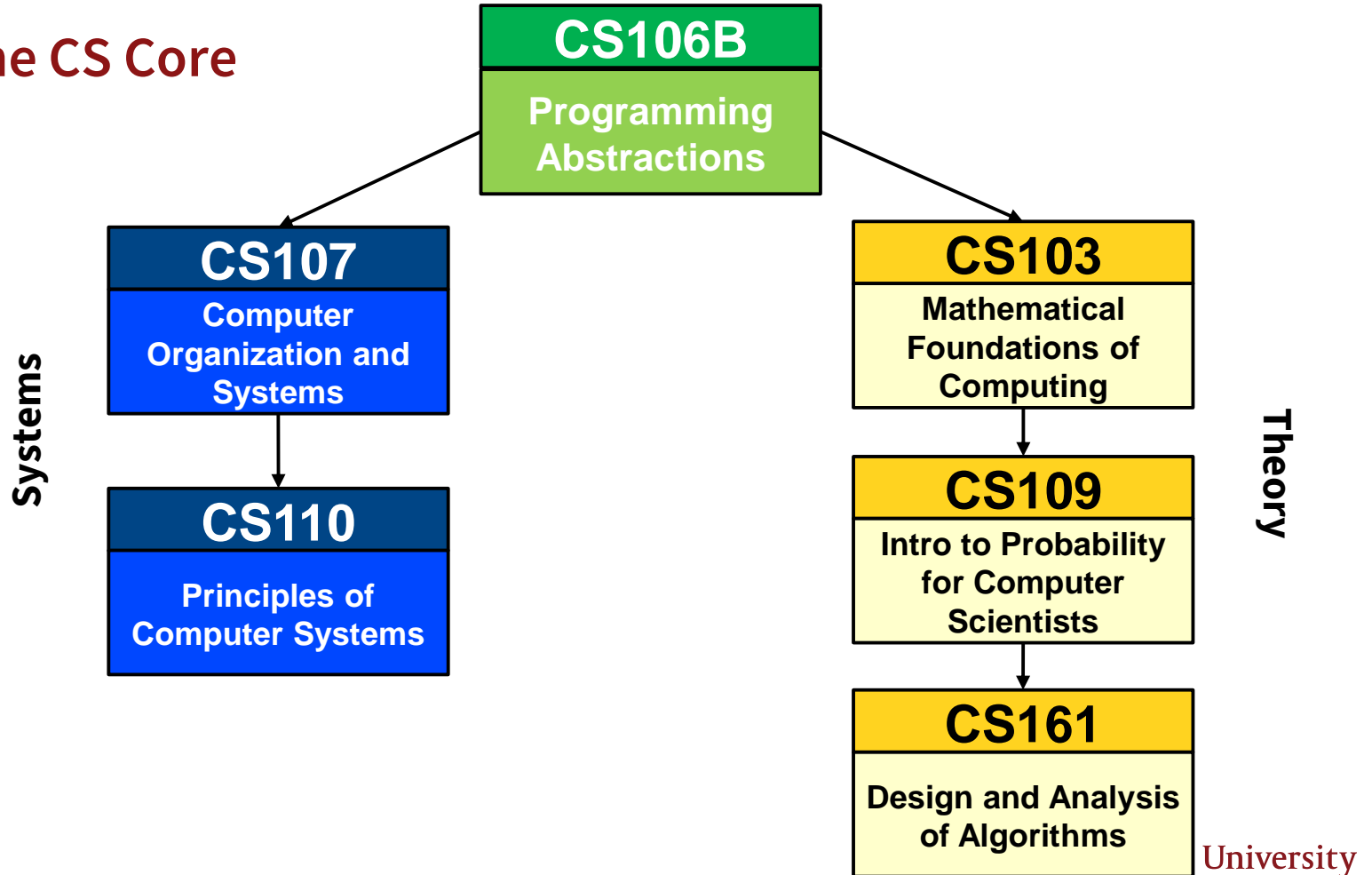
- *So...what next?*

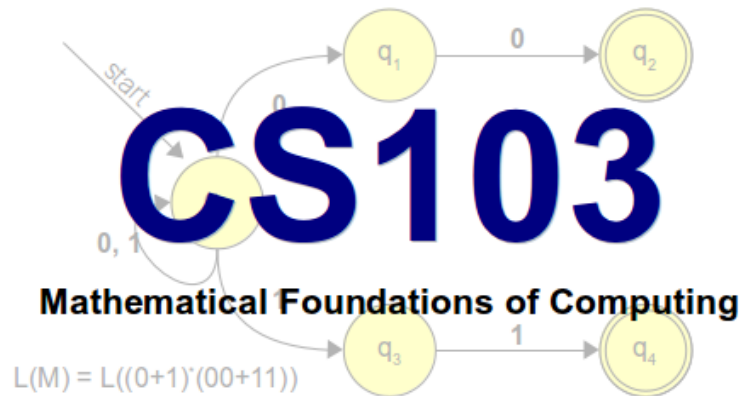
What next?

CS OPTIONS AFTER CS106B



The CS Core





Can computers solve all mathematical problems?

Spoiler: no!

Why are some problems harder than others?

We can find in an unsorted array in $O(N)$, and we can sort an unsorted array in $O(N \log N)$. Is sorting just inherently a harder problem, or are there better $O(N)$ sorting algorithms yet to be discovered?

How can we be certain about this?

CS107

Computer Organization and Systems

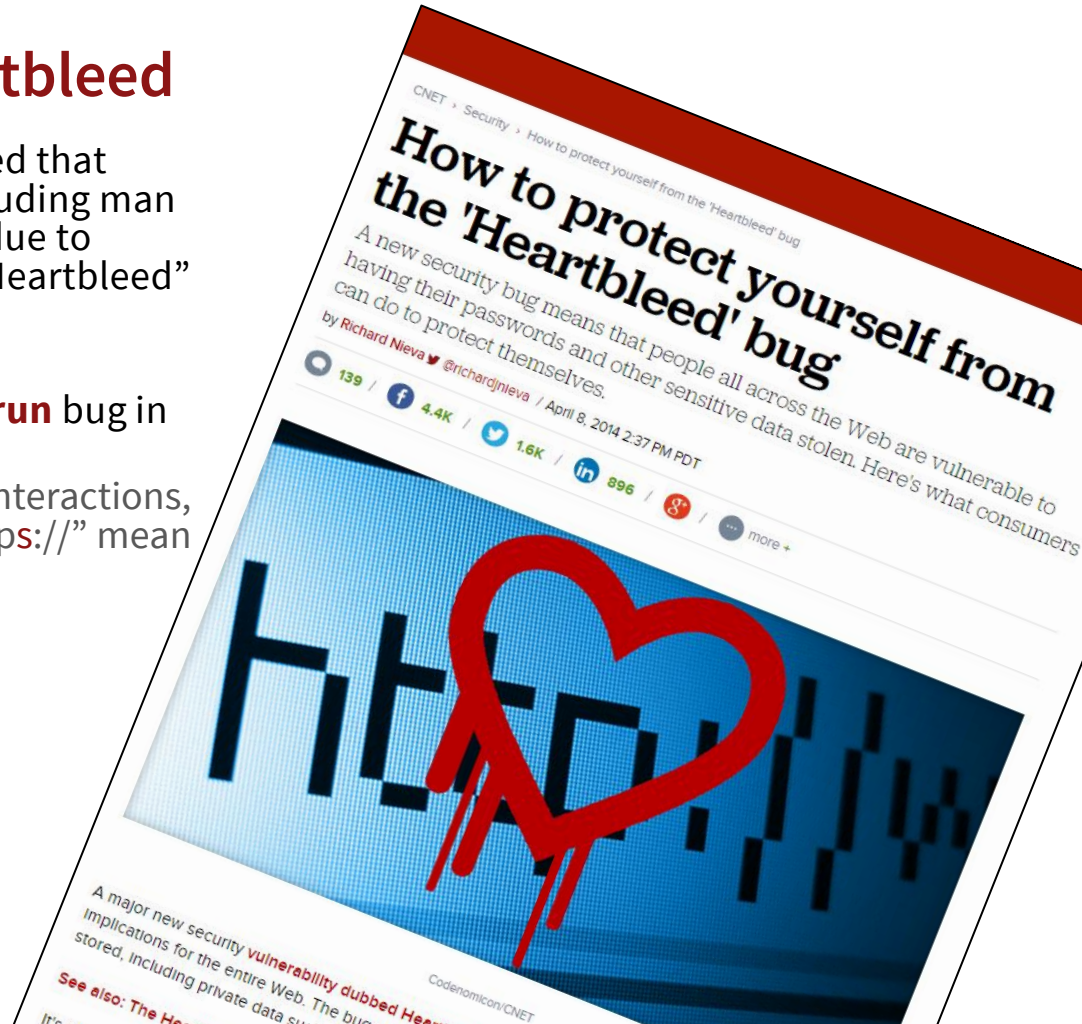
How do we encode text, numbers, programs, etc. using just 0s and 1s?

**Where does memory come from?
How is it managed?**

How do compilers, debuggers, etc. work?

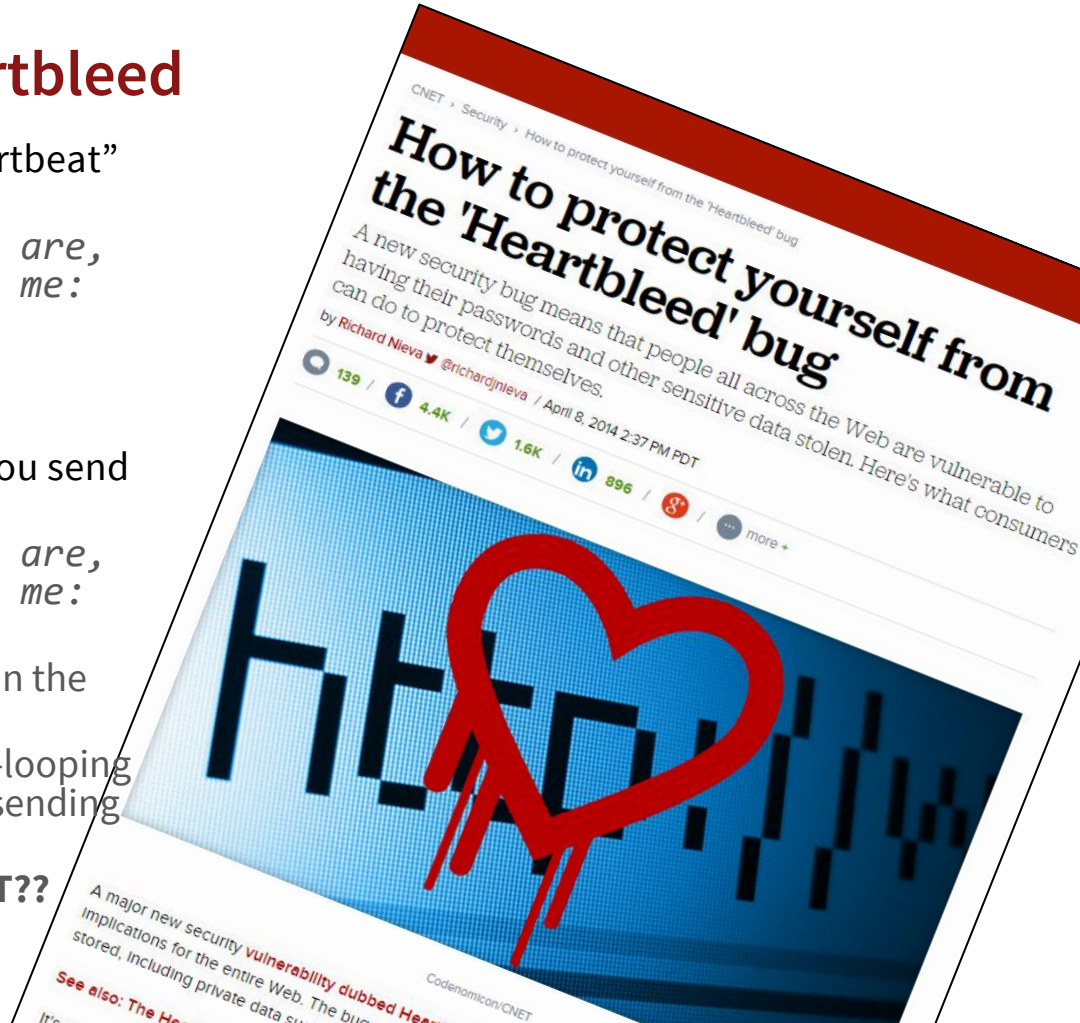
CS107 in the news: Heartbleed

- In April 2014, security experts warned that users of thousands of websites, including man needed to change their passwords due to potential exposure caused by the “Heartbleed” vulnerability
- Heartbleed exploited a **buffer overrun** bug in OpenSSL
 - › SSL is the layer that secures web interactions, i.e., it’s what makes the “s” in “https://” mean something



CS107 in the news: Heartbleed

- The protocol allows you to send “heartbeat” messages, which basically say:
 - › *Are you still there? If you are, repeat this message back to me: "hello" [0x0005 bytes].*
 - › Each char is one byte, so 5 letters
- Unfortunately, the software also let you send messages like this:
 - › *Are you still there? If you are, repeat this message back to me: "hello" [0xFFFF bytes].*
 - › That’s 65535 bytes—much more than the length of "hello"!
 - › So the software would continue for-looping past the end of the "hello" array, sending information back
 - › Which causes an error, right? **RIGHT??**
Turns out, no.



CS107 in the news: Chrome

- On Oct 31, 2019, Google disclosed that there was a bug in Chrome that caused a security breach
- The bug was that the program accesses memory after it has already been freed/deleted
 - › Usually works, but incorrect and sometimes causes the bug



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```
int *array = new int[CAPACITY];  
  
// ... use array as usual ...  
  
delete [] array;  
  
// ... time passes ...  
  
int val = array[i]; // bad!!
```

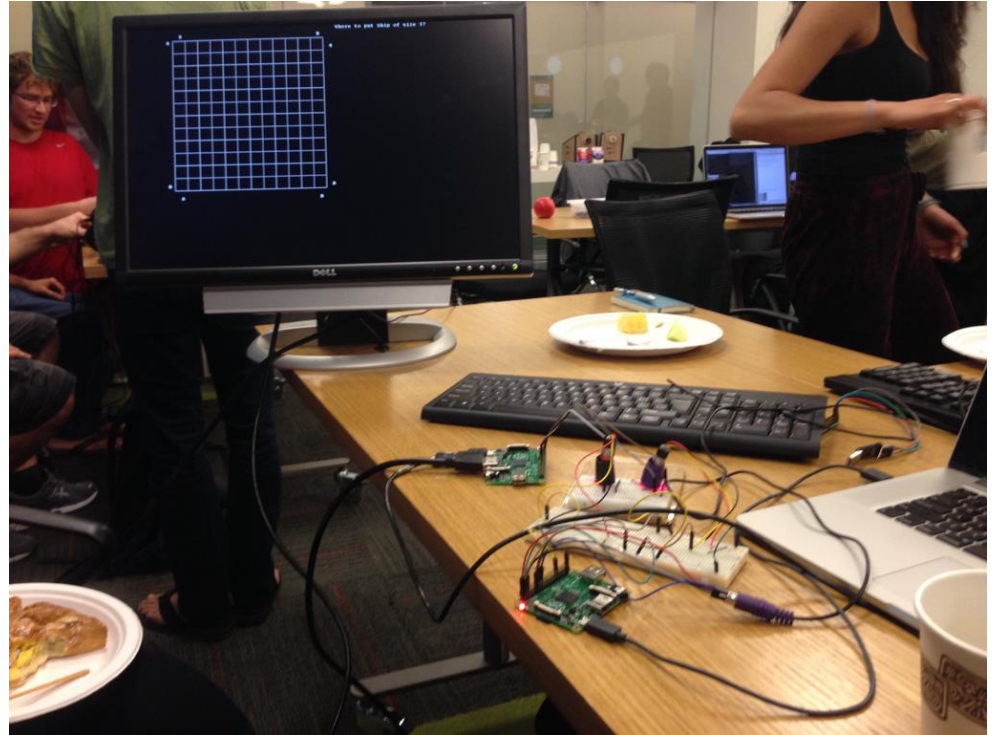
What CS107 Isn't

- CS107-style systems programming is **one** kind of programming.
 - One that I really love! But one of many, and it's a matter of personal taste.
- CS107 is **not** a litmus test for whether you can be a computer scientist.
 - You can be a *great* computer scientist without particularly enjoying low-level systems programming.
- CS107 is **not** indicative of what programming is “really like.”
 - CS107 does a lot of low-level programming. You don't have to do low-level programming to be a good computer scientist.

CS107E

Computer Organization and Systems—Embedded

- **Counts for prerequisites etc. the same as original CS107**, but covers the topics with a twist: embedded work on Raspberry Pi



Other CS Courses



CS106L

Learning the Standard Template Library (STL)

- In CS106B, we learn the Stanford Library containers
- ***Now learn the industrial-strength ones!***

CS182

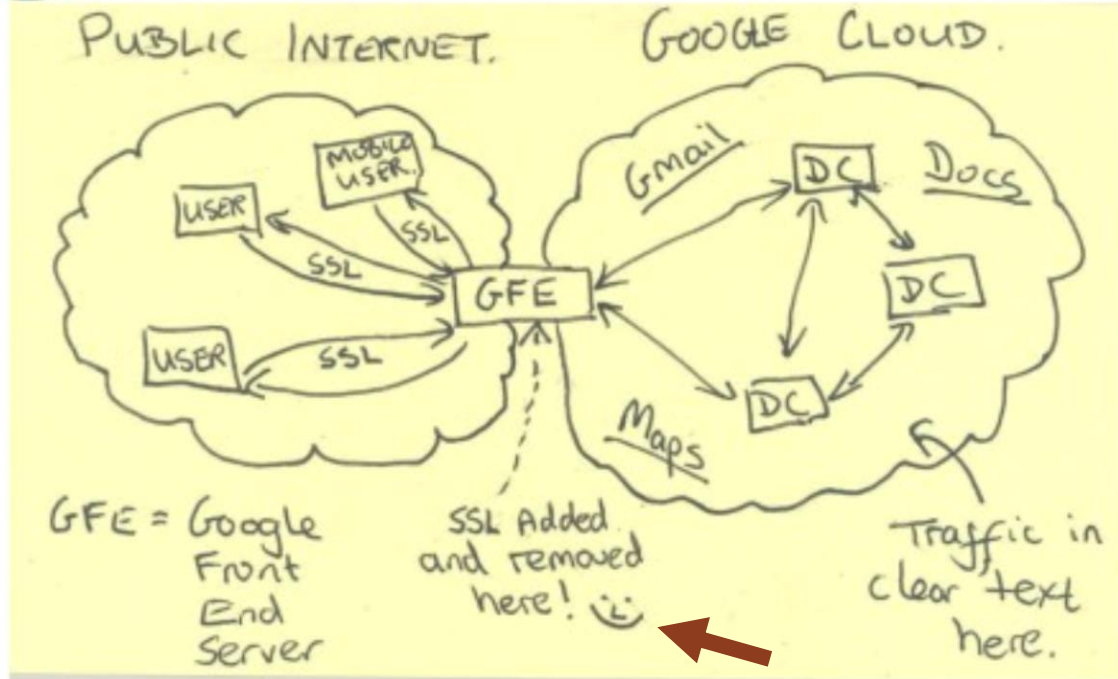
Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy

- Did you love the thought-provoking issues raised in Katie Creel's lecture in this class?
- Want to dive deeper into that topic and more, and be prepared to participate in urgent, ongoing conversations in media, government, non-profits, and the tech industry?

We have the power to control and create technology, but how should we use it? Who should get a say in how it's used?



Current Efforts - Google



CS108

Object-Oriented Systems Design

- *How do you build large software systems in a team?*
- Introduction to things you need to know for work in the “real world”:
 - Unit-testing frameworks
 - Object-oriented design
 - Multithreaded applications
 - Databases and web applications
 - Source control

Options besides CS Major

CS Minor: only 5 more classes!

- 103, 107, 109, two your choice—fun!

CS Coterminal MS degree

- Earn an MS in CS while you are here earning your BS
- Possible for CS majors **and other majors**
 - › ex: Psych major, CS co-term

See you Wednesday!

