



CourseCast of the Week – March 3, 2008 – Episode 38

Key Topics:

- Pakistan Takes Down YouTube
- Wikileaks is Back Online
- CAPTCHA Work Around
- News Briefs

Talk About It:

1. Why would Pakistan get upset about cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad? Does the United States have a telecommunications agency? What do you think about Pakistan accidentally or by design preventing individuals from accessing YouTube for two hours? (Pakistan Takes Down YouTube)
2. What is Wikileaks? Why was the domain name disabled? (Wikileaks is Back Online)

Explore Technology:

1. Research how Pakistan knocked YouTube offline. What steps need to be taken to prevent it (or similar events) from happening in the future? (Pakistan Takes Down YouTube)
2. Visit the Wikileaks.org site. What key points did you find out about the site? In your opinion, should a judge have been able to disable the domain name? Why or why not. (Wikileaks is Back Online)

Think Critically:

1. What is CAPTCHA, and why is it necessary? What new technology could be created to prevent hackers from being able to generate new accounts? (CAPTCHA Work Around)
2. Nokia is promoting a new concept phone called the Morph that would use nanotechnology to morph into a variety of shapes including a handset, a bracelet, or a tablet. It's flexible, stretchable, semitransparent, self-cleaning, and green. What are other possible uses for the Morph? How could the Morph be problematic on an individual, communal, or global scale? (News Briefs)