# Ethical Analysis Assignment #2 Handed out: March 12, 2013 First Version Due: March 28, 2013 (to be workshopped!) Final Version Due: April 4, 2013 CMSC 304 – Prof. Marie desJardins

In this assignment, you will consider the ethical tradeoffs made by a hypothetical WikiLeaks employee. This individual is a software engineer and web designer who is responsible for indexing, redacting (possibly using automated text processing techniques), and curating the WikiLeaks website/database.

In your paper, you must identify (two or more) ethical questions that this individual would face, and analyze these questions using our course ethical framework*.* You should now be including the ACM professional codes of ethics in your discussion.

Here are some thoughts you may want to consider:

* Given the size of the WikiLeaks database, examining every document for accuracy and thoroughness of redaction is not possible. What level of testing is enough?
* Data mining technology can often identify individuals from text documents based on identifying details, even if their name is removed. What would the WIkiLeaks employee’s responsibility be (if any) in preparing the documents in such a way that these data mining efforts would be defeated? (You may wish to read the “expert” reading from March 12, “Ethical Issues in Web Data Mining,” if you didn’t already.)
* What if some of the material to be “leaked” contained proprietary business secrets?

As with the previous assignment, the expected length is 2-4 pages in a standard single-spaced, 11 or 12 point font report style (approximately 1000-2000 words). As always, it’s OK to submit a longer analysis (but not more than 8 pages, please).