

Digital Property Spring 2026 Final Exam

This examination consists of **10 questions**. Each question has a **point value** out of a **total of 120**. You can allocate your time as you wish, but I recommend roughly one minute per point. (I will scale the raw scores so that the midterm and final count equally.)

Each question also has a **word limit**, which will be **strictly enforced**. The limits are generous; it is possible to answer each question fully correctly in fewer words. I want you to think carefully about your answer, rather than trying to write everything you can.

Write and submit your answer using **Exam4** following the instructions provided by the registrar. In case of technical issues during the exam, alert the proctor and contact the Law School registrar.

This is a **closed-laptop but open book** examination. You will not have access to your files, applications other than Exam4, or the Internet. You are explicitly prohibited from attempting to evade these restrictions. You are welcome to consult the textbook, your notes or outlines, or other reference materials in hard copy.

Please make your answer as **specific** to the facts of the question as you can. Generic statements or suggestions, such as “Make sure that all employees follow proper security practices,” will receive few or no points. Your answer should assume that I am already familiar with the facts of the problem and relevant law, and dive directly into your analysis. Use **simple citations** (e.g. “*see Hamidi*”) where appropriate. I include **spelling, grammar, clarity, and organization** in my grading, but only to the extent that they interfere with my ability to understand the substance of your answer. If you find the question **ambiguous** or need to **assume additional facts**, state your assumptions and explain how they affect your answer. No reasonable resolution of an ambiguity will be penalized.

Unless otherwise noted, **all names are fictitious**. Please disregard any resemblance to actual persons, places, or institutions, unless they are specifically incorporated into a question.

You can **focus on the digital property issues**. If you need to make assumptions about other areas of law, it is fine to write “I assume that ...” rather than giving a detailed explanation.

Assume for purposes of the examination that all events take place in the United States, in the (fictitious) state of Roosevelt. In particular, you should assume that:

- **Present-day law** was fully in effect at all relevant times.
- Roosevelt has adopted the most recent version of the **Uniform Commercial Code**, including the new **article 12**.
- Roosevelt courts follow *Kremen v. Cohen*, *JLM Couture v. Gutman*, *Thy-roff v. Nationwide Mutual*, and other **U.S. cases we discussed in class**.
- Roosevelt courts are not bound by **foreign statutes or caselaw**, but look to them as persuasive precedent in cases where the outcome is not controlled by a domestic statute or caselaw.

Your work on this examination is subject to the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity, the Law School Code of Academic Integrity, and the Campus Code of Conduct. **You may not discuss the questions or your answers with anyone** until after the conclusion of the exam.

True/False

6 questions, 5 points each (30 points total) / 50 words each

Answer each of the following questions with "true," "false," or "it depends." Justify your answer in a sentence or two.

1. Zaphod sold a car to Arthur, who paid in Bitcoin. Unbeknownst to Arthur, Zaphod obtained the Bitcoin by hacking a Sirius Cybernetics Corporation computer. True or false: *Arthur must return the Bitcoin to Sirius?*
2. Magrathea Industries has a block of 16,384 IP addresses allocated by ARIN. It is short on cash and would like to raise money by selling the addresses, but ARIN rules prohibit selling IP addresses or transferring them without ARIN's permission. True or false: *Magrathea can sell the addresses, despite ARIN's policies to the contrary?*
3. Tricia has stored a collection of family photos in the online storage service HeartOfGold. Rob obtained Tricia's password in a phishing attack and deleted the photos. True or false: *Rob is liable to Tricia for conversion?*
4. Marvin has been playing the online game Pan-Galactic for years. Ford correctly guessed Marvin's (weak) password and transferred 200,000 "space credits" to his own account. True or false: *Marvin cannot turn to the legal system for relief against Ford, because Pan-Galactic is only a game?*
5. Fenchurch has an account with Hactar Bank. Jeltz robs Fenchurch at gunpoint, takes Fenchurch's debit card, and uses it to withdraw \$2,000 from her account. True or false: *Hactar must restore the funds to Fenchurch's account, because this was an unauthorized transaction under Regulation E?*
6. Frankie makes an NFT of the Statute of Liberty. Benjy also wants to make an NFT of the Statute of Liberty. True or false: *Frankie can prevent Benjy from making their own NFT because there can only be one NFT representing any given thing?*

Short Answer

3 questions, 15 points each (45 points total) / 250 words each

7. Grunthos has created a free, ad-supported poetry history website, Azguide, with tens of thousands of poems, arranged by author and year. (All of the individual poems are old enough that they are no longer subject to copyright.) Grunthos is concerned that the Vogon Corporation, which is creating a generative-AI model specialized for writing poetry, will try to scrape Azguide to use the poems as training data. *Identify three bodies of law that Grunthos could use to try to stop Vogon, and explain why each would or would not work.*
8. Eddie registered the domain name `disasterarea.com` through the registrar Deep Thought. He provided a Gmail email address as his point of contact. Gmail suspended Eddie's account for alleged terms of service violations (sending spam, which he disputes). As a result, Eddie, who forgot his password at Deep Thought., was unable to renew the registration to `disasterarea.com`, which expired. Colin then registered the domain name at Deep Thought. *Can Eddie recover the domain name? Why or why not?*
9. We have seen that plaintiffs have attempted to use the tort of conversion to protect many different kinds of property. *Give three examples of things that are protected by the tort of conversion in different ways, explain briefly what kind of a thing each of them is, and say what kind of conduct would constitute conversion.*

Long Answer

45 points / 750 words

10. Matt Watney, a professional content creator and space enthusiast, created a fictional “moon mission.” He sealed himself in a replica of an actual capsule for several days, using the Telescope streaming platform to stream himself carrying out all of the tasks that actual astronauts would. The highlight of the event was the “landing,” in which he emerged from the capsule and explored the “lunar landscape” (actually his backyard).

Watney created 100 access tokens that would allow a viewer to watch the landing livestream on Telescope. If a second device attempted to watch on the livestream using the same access token, Telescope would turn off the first device’s stream and start streaming to the second device instead.

The access tokens were created and managed by a smart contract written by Watney and deployed on the Martian blockchain. Watney sold the tokens for the MARS cryptocurrency (the native currency of the Martian blockchain) at a price that was equivalent to \$3,000 each. Unfortunately, several incidents disrupted the experience:

- Kristin Montrose, an employee of Telescope, allowed several of her friends to watch the livestream without access tokens.
- Jessica Lewis bought a token and printed out the passcode, which she left on the desk in her office. Donald Purnell, who was there for a meeting, took a photo of the printout. Lewis started watching the livestream, but was blocked after a few minutes when Purnell used the token to start streaming instead.
- Halfway through the stream, an unknown hacker going by the name “Ares” found a bug in the smart contract and was able to transfer a token held by Aksel Vogel to a hosted wallet ending in -6a7e, on the Martian blockchain run by Pathfinder, a cryptocurrency exchange. Vogel was able to watch the complete livestream; no one else tried to log in using the token.

Watney is furious. He believes that these incidents ruined the livestream for him and his loyal fans.

Who can Watney and his fans sue for violating their digital property rights, what can they sue for, and what remedies will they be able to receive?