

Revue Ubiquité

Revue Interdisciplinaire des Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication

"...donc quelque peu mystificateurs car ils tentent de nous persuader qu'une autre vie commence devant l'ordinateur."

Florence de la Vallé and Axel Lefebvre

When I first took this volume (Novembre 1998-1) into my hands and started read the editorial, I startled with the enchanting plea it made for keeping us reasonable in what concerns the would-be dimension of technology intrusion in our lives' true essence: we should always stay in spiritual and not in technological life, no matter its everywhere presence-the ubiquity I was very pleased to see that a publication has the courage to face ideas, facts, rights, denials, perils, mutations, social changes, etc., which a technological "whirlpool" gets in store for all of us.

I have chosen to recommend this publication, now on the debut, because of its discussing some of the trickiest problems of nowadays. These problems need for a "look out" from the scientific community and public in general.

This publication, actually a dedicated book, makes an interdisciplinary approach to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and represents the investigation product of professors, researchers and student graduates from the Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix -Namur, Belgium, all specialised in the Law and Management of Information and Communication Technologies.

This first volume features an excellent Editorial written by the Journal directors, Florence de la Vallé and Axel Lefebvre, a Belgian official's standpoint-Elio di Rupo writes about: "*Société de l'information: garantir de vrais progrès*", Summary, Analyses, Law Initiatives, Milestones, Books, Colloquia.

As the Journal clue is in the "*Analyses*", I will refer them in quintessence.

What are they about? The first analysis is due to Professor Yves Pouillet and speaks about: "*Libertés et société de l'information: le droit*

de participer a la société de l'information et le droit de s'en exclure". Information age is going to "flood" us and human liberties must be protected. The author has the ingenuity of putting the problem like this: an individual should prescribe in the future for either participating in the information society or retreating from that society. He shows that these rights are to be necessarily distinct and explains why so by referring universal commitment versus anonymity and opaqueness.

A second analysis is that of Ludmilla Petit and Alexandra De Vylder and discusses about: "*Monnaie électronique et libertés individuelles: la carte Proton*". The article considers the Proton technology- an electronic payment card- , how it fits into the information society pattern and how its implementation, undoubtedly useful as it is, can possibly determine actions contrary to the individual user's privacy, and what is to be done for stopping the process of interference with private life.

A third analysis is dedicated to "*La cryptographie et la confidentialité des données: une question clé...*" and was carried out by Nicolas Becker. As computer networks, Internet, information highways and electronic commerce proliferate, one must keep pace. Understanding these new domains and acquiring their specific knowledge is to be able to defend one's civil rights and to meet social requirements. The author goes into the "mysterious" role of cryptography , wanting to clarify technical and legal aspects. The use of cryptography with a view at protecting data privacy in data exchanges is analysed and the Belgian forerunning policy in the field as well as the necessity for an international co-ordination of this activity are described.

The next journal feature "*Law initiatives*," includes some interesting stances regarding computer fraud in Belgium- from a blurred yesterday to tomorrow-, regarding electronic signature and a new Belgian law on personal data protection .

Under "*Milestones*" feature, one comes across a keyword: telecommunications (in Belgium, the EU and the USA).

The "*Book*" feature of the journal recommends the following titles: "*Internet voor Juristen*", by J.G.L. van der Wees and W.G. Renden, "*Le logiciel et le droit, memento-guide*", by Alain Bensoussan, and "

Télévision et culture : Politiques et réglementations en Europe", by Emmanuelle Machet and Serge Robillard.

Indeed a very interesting and pleasant reading. The splendid graphical presentation of the volume, from the cover design to the page lay-out, and the beautiful French it was written in, should be remarked.

The Centre de Recherches -Informatique et Droit, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix in Namur deserves our congratulations for their first volume of "*Revue Ubiquité*", as they deserve our gratefulness for being offered the volume.

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