COSC244 Data Ethics Assignment
(4%, Due 4:30pm September 17th)

There are two options for this assignment. Option 2 is designed mainly for people who aren't Facebook users. (Facebook users can choose option 2 if they like, but I'd encourage them to go for Option 1, just to see what Facebook has on them!)

1. Download your Facebook data. There are various places online that tell you how to do this: here's one example:

   https://www.imore.com/how-download-copy-your-facebook-data

   Write a report about what Facebook knows about you. (There will be a lot of data, so you'll need to be selective.) You should address three questions:

   a) How does Facebook organize its information about you? (Give some examples, to illustrate.)
   b) Where does the information come from, principally? (Give some examples, to illustrate.)
   c) Finally, an ethical question: is it *right* that Facebook is able to gather/store all of this information? (In this question, you can choose to focus on one type of information in particular, if you like.) There's no right answer here: but you need to give an argument to support your answer, whatever it is.

2. Read some articles written by users who have downloaded their Facebook data. For instance:

   https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/technology/personaltech/i-downloaded-the-information-that-facebook-has-on-me-yikes.html

   https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/mar/28/all-the-data-facebook-google-has-on-you-privacy

   (You can choose other articles, if you prefer.)

   a) Summarise the types of data that these users found in their personal profile.
   b) What were these users most surprised by?
   c) Finally, an ethical question: is it *right* that Facebook is able to gather/store all this personal information? (In this question, you can choose to focus on one type of information in particular, if you like.) There's no right answer here: but you need to give an argument to support your answer, whatever it is.

Submit a report of up to 3 pages, with the paper number, your name, and your student ID on the frontpage, as a PDF file. Put your report in a directory containing no other PDFs and then enter the command

    ethics-submit

in a terminal inside that directory. You will be asked to confirm that the correct file is being submitted and then the message "Submission complete" will be printed.