

Welcome to the June 2007 edition of *Computers & Law*. First of all, thank you for all of the feedback over the last few editions. We are pleased that you are enjoying the articles published in our journal and welcome the continued high quality article submissions.

Over the past 12 months the States, Territories and Australian Government have been working collaboratively with the ICT industry on a project to improve the consistency of ICT contracting nationally. Surprised? It is really happening, and the first results are through. The draft Framework document is now available to government and industry for consultation and feedback. Mike Pym, from Pym's Technology Lawyers, in our first article titled "A Step on the Way: towards a more consistent ICT contract across all Australian Governments" explains what the project is, how much has been achieved and how you can get involved in the consultation process. Mike represented the Australian Information Industry Association and the Information Technology Contract and Recruitment Association on the steering committee throughout the project and so is well-placed to be the author of this article.

Our next article has been written by one of our regular contributors, Catherine Bond. The article is about Wikipedia, now almost a household name for Internet users of all ages. In her article, "Legal Controversies Surrounding Wikipedia", Catherine discusses the legal issues that have accompanied the growth in popularity of Wikipedia, the online, collaborative encyclopaedia. Many researchers, from all ages and around the world now rely on this tool to find information on specific topics at the click of a mouse. However, as Catherine discusses, critics have questioned the reliability and accuracy of Wikipedia and in recent years a number of controversies have tested the collaborative model upon which Wikipedia is based. Despite these legal controversies, Wikipedia continues to grow in terms of the number of articles and its success as a web resource, indicating that it can (and will need to) overcome these various problems. If you are not familiar with Wikipedia, take a look –

you may even discover your own Wikipedia biography (or you can at least check out what Paris Hilton has been up since she got let out of prison)!

The third article of this edition is written by Alex Hutchens'. The article starts with a great summary on how our Internet 'habits' are changing. If you look at the popular sites on the Internet, they include sites such as MySpace, YouTube and more recently, FaceBook.

FaceBook is a very interesting example of how we like to use the Internet. In a matter of months, FaceBook already has 30 million active users and it is estimated that 150,000 new users join daily. It is open to anyone with an active email address and it enables users to add friends, upload photos or videos and share links. Interestingly, FaceBook also enables anyone to build applications that users can choose to use. The possibilities of different applications are endless and keep FaceBook fun and interesting to use. In the meantime, companies have jumped at the change to advertise on FaceBook. And FaceBook's CEO? 23 year old, Mark Zuckerberg. For the time being, FaceBook remains independent but perhaps this will not always be the case. FaceBook has already had substantial offers from the likes of companies such as Yahoo and Viacom.

Perhaps the FaceBook story will follow a similar path to YouTube. Alex's article likens the YouTube story to Hollywood - the two college students that developed YouTube are now \$1.65 billion richer thanks to the acquisition of YouTube by Google.

The new trend is clearly websites with multimedia tools, live streaming and online communities. Even more interesting, is the types of companies interested in acquiring the likes of MySpace and YouTube. Alex's article likens the story of YouTube to Hollywood –

Alex's article considers the effect that the emergence of "Web 2.0" might have on the traditional boundaries of content ownership, with particular reference to the recent dispute between Viacom and Google, Inc. It also considers whether the similarities

between Australian and US copyright law are sufficiently strong that a similar claim might be brought under Australian copyright law.

Mike Pym and Sarah Mann have written our next article. With the Australian Government issuing more than 24,000 contracts annually for ICT procurements worth more than 3 billion dollars a new standard contract is an important event – the article analyses the new contracts. In May 2007 AGIMO issued SourceIT, a suite of model form contracts for ICT procurement covering software, hardware, support and maintenance and IT consultancy services. The article explains what these contracts are designed to be used for and the key issues associated with the 'legal boiler plate' terms and conditions. The article highlights the new tougher standards that are being required of suppliers in their Federal Government ICT contracts.

Mike has promised a follow up article which will appear in our next issue of *Computers & Law*. It will analyse the clauses that deal with product and service specific issues, and will provide guidance on how to complete the Contract Details to minimise the risks to both the buyer and supplier in finalising the new contract documentation!

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Lucinda Yeung and Rebecca Zaman for helping me put this edition together. Rebecca is a budding law student at University of Sydney who has kindly volunteered her time to help me put together this edition.

Enjoy!