

Consider another possibility. Suppose Earl is an independent consultant who has been hired to write a blog. Earl, who is very busy, hires Erin to write the blog for him. Earl bills his time for \$110 an hour and pays Erin \$45, keeping the difference. And he has free time for more paid work. Earl reviews her work, but he does none of it himself. The client never knows that it's Erin, not Earl, who writes the blog.

Or let's bring it closer to home. Suppose you take online tests as part of your class. What keeps you from taking the test with your brother, who happens to work for Google as a product manager for Google Drive? Suppose you take the test by yourself, but you believe others are taking their tests with silent helpers. Given that belief, are you justified in finding your own helper? What do you think? Are your ethics virtual?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is it *illegal* to spoof someone? Does it matter whether you have that person's permission to spoof them?
2. Is it *ethical* to spoof someone? Does it matter whether you have that person's permission? Consider both the categorical imperative (page 20) and utilitarianism (page 40) in your response to this question and the remaining questions.
3. Under what circumstances do you believe it is ethical to spoof someone?
4. Consider the virtual meeting of Allison, Abby, and Amy (but Amy is actually not at the meeting; Beatrice is pretending to be Amy because Amy is taking her kid to a doctor's appointment). What are the consequences to the organization of such a meeting? What happens when Abby meets Amy in the hallway and Abby asks, "What did you think of our meeting?" Who has the knowledge of the meeting? Who knows that they have that knowledge?
5. Considering Cathy's spoofing of young associates. What is different between text chat and a speaker phone? Haven't we always had these problems, except Cathy was passing notes and making comments while the phone was muted? What behavior should you follow when talking with someone who is on a speaker phone? How does the videoconferencing capability of products like Lync change this situation?
6. Is it ethical to take credit for Danny's thinking? Suppose you are later heavily criticized for the quality of Danny's ideas that you appropriated. Do you disclaim them? How?
7. Is it cheating to have a helper on an online test? Are you justified if everyone else is doing it? What control is possible for online tests? Should such tests be used at all?

