

# Unit 3 Review

15-110

# Ethics Reflection

- Encryption innovations can have both **positive** and **negative** impacts on society
- Internet anonymity via Tor and VPNs
  - allow users to access content blocked by local providers and governments
  - Journalists communicate more safely with whistleblowers
  - Tor also provides access to “Dark Net” websites (e.g. illegal markets, censorship-resistant content)
- Rise of anonymous image boards/forums
  - Perpetrators of 3 mass shootings each spread their manifesto using [8chan in 2019](#)
  - Orchestrate incitement and conspiracy theories (Pizzagate, Gamergate, QAnon)
  - [“Q: Into the Storm”](#) (2021 HBO Documentary)
- New technologies and cybercrimes
  - **Cryptocurrencies:** digital assets backed by cryptography
    - Typically decentralized and exist outside government institutions and traditional banking
    - Concerns of disrupting authority of monetary policy and central banks
  - **Ransomware:** some malware locks a victim out of their data by encrypting it and requesting a ransom to provide the private keys to decrypt it
    - Often request payment in form of cryptocurrency

# Discussion

- What are some other ways in which online anonymity can create a **positive** or **negative** impact on society?
- Should users be allowed a **reasonable expectation of privacy** online? What is the responsibility of online companies to disclose when this is not the case?

# Readings

<https://2019.www.torproject.org/about/overview.html.en>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/04/technology/8chan-shooting-manifesto.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/14/opinion/coinbase-ipo-cryptocurrencies.html>

<https://digitalguardian.com/blog/history-ransomware-attacks-biggest-and-worst-ransomware-attacks-all-time>