The No-Nonsense Guide to Legal Issues in Web 2.0 and Cloud Computing

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The aim of this book is to guide a "perplexed non-lawyer" through the maze of current legal issues in web 2.0 and cloud computing.

The emphasis is on UK and European law but other legal systems and especially the US laws are mentioned where relevant, including a very brief but useful listing of differences between UK and US copyright law.

The book covers copyright, other intellectual property rights, data protection and privacy, freedom of information, defamation, liability issues and cloud computing. Each of these concepts is explained and the legislation covering it is described in sufficient detail to allow the reader an insight into the complexities and, sometimes, contradictions of the legislation.

The strong point of the guide is the numerous case studies, the majority of which relate to real events. They bring to life legal issues and illustrate the diversity of professional and individual situations affected by the legislation. The book also contains exercises designed to help the reader analyse the issues raised. The exercises are truly thought provoking and great fun – and more so if one takes the time to ponder the issues carefully before reading the suggested answers towards the end of each chapter.

Another highly appealing feature of this guide is the presence of highlighted web 2.0 pointers. They re-focus discussion on the web 2.0, augment the legal issues and contain examples of the law functioning, or not, in the web 2.0 environment.

Practical advice is provided in the form of check lists such as a copyright checklist for anyone developing a web 2.0 application, a list of questions to ask a cloud service supplier before signing their contract or a model contract for those submitting user generated content.

The author makes it clear it is a snapshot of the legal system as it was in the middle of 2012. The reader is made aware of the need to read the guide in this context and bear in mind new laws coming into force or existing laws being amended.

The book is supported by a wide ranging and relevant bibliography and an excellent index.

The author stresses that he is not a lawyer and this book is not a source of legal advice or a legal textbook. It may well be superior to many a legal textbook – it is matter of fact, highly readable and practical. This book should be required reading for anyone interacting in any capacity with web 2.0 and cloud computing.

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