Due date: Thursday, October 31, 2013

By 23:59 on Thursday, October 31, 2013, turn in (electronically) short answers (one or two paragraphs) to each of the following three questions.

Each answer is worth a maximum of 17 points.

1. The Food and Drug administration maintains a registry of more than 120,000 drugs. An investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services found that the information on about 34,000 drugs was incorrect or out of date. Nine thousand drugs were missing from the directory.

(a) Describe several possible risks of the database being so out of date.
(b) Give reasons why the database may have been out of date.

2. After making a change in the computer system of a major bank an employee forgot to enter certain commands. As a result, approximately 800,000 direct deposits received by the bank were not posted to customer’s accounts until the next day – 24 hours later than they should have been posted.

(a) what are some potential consequences of the error?
(b) if you were the president of the bank, what would you say in a statement to the news media or your customers?

3. Many students attend several colleges before they eventually graduate. It would be convenient if they could order a complete transcript showing all their college-level work from a federal student database as discussed in section 2.2.1. Describe several ways in which getting a transcript from such a database might be riskier than getting transcripts from individual colleges.