things todo before our first class

Some CSC 495 notes to read before our first class on Mar 28

It's important for us to start the term running. We will do the items below in the first week of class. I recommend you get a head start right now, if you can. Run!

1. Paper Due Wed Mar 30 - The first ethics assignment is in this (orange) box. Start your paper now… to win!

> **Write an Op-ed piece: Apple v. The Feds**
> Due: Wed Mar 30 at noon (start of class)
> Worth: 5 points, or 5% of your final grade
>
> Please write an op-ed piece explaining your support for either Apple or the United States government in the case of unlocking the San Bernardino terrorist's iPhone.
>
> What's an op-ed piece?
> - The NY Times says: "Articles typically run from 400 to 1,200 words" (link).
> - The Wall Street Journal says: "Op-Eds: 600-1200 words, double-spaced. The piece must center on a strong argument about an issue in the news and not be a response to a Journal article. Please use jargon-free language." (link)
>
> I'll probably ask for a printout and electronic version. Stay tuned.

2. Read Ruby on Rails Tutorial - For our project, we'll be using the Ruby programming language and its associated web application framework, Rails. In class, we'll work on the tutorial in Ruby on Rails Tutorial by Michael Hartl. You can buy the book for $30 (**like I did**, it's really nice to highlight), or it's free online at www.railstutorial.org/.
- Read Chapters 1-2
- [optional] DO the tutorial in chapters 1 (hello_app) and chapter 2 (toy_app). We'll talk about this tutorial in class a lot, but press forward if you want.
- [optional] Keep reading if you want… chapter 3 and beyond!

3. Signup for slack - We will use (fun, new, trendy) Slack for class messages: www.slack.com. I will email you an invite soon. When you get it, signup and play!

Please email me if you have any questions or "slack me" to just say Hey, dude.
thanks… yow, bill