

Codes of Ethics

CS10#F: Ethical Foundations of Computer Science

April 30, 2019

Discussion: Codes of Ethics

The ACM Code of Ethics

1. General Ethical Principles

1.1 Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing.

1.2 Avoid harm.

1.3 Be honest and trustworthy.

1.4 Be fair and take action not to discriminate.

1.5 Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts.

1.6 Respect privacy.

1.7 Honor confidentiality.

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2. Professional Responsibilities

- 2.1 Strive to achieve high quality in both the processes and products of professional work.
- 2.2 Maintain high standards of professional competence, conduct, and ethical practice.
- 2.3 Know and respect existing rules pertaining to professional work.
- 2.4 Accept and provide appropriate professional review.
- 2.5 Give comprehensive and thorough evaluations of computer systems and their impacts, including analysis of possible risks.
- 2.6 Perform work only in areas of competence.
- 2.7 Foster public awareness and understanding of computing, related technologies, and their consequences.
- 2.8 Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good.
- 2.9 Design and implement systems that are robustly and usably secure.

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3. Professional Leadership Principles

3.1 Ensure that the public good is the central concern during all professional computing work.

3.2 Articulate, encourage acceptance of, and evaluate fulfillment of social responsibilities by members of the organization or group.

3.3 Manage personnel and resources to enhance the quality of working life.

3.4 Articulate, apply, and support policies and processes that reflect the principles of the Code.

3.5 Create opportunities for members of the organization or group to grow as professionals.

3.6 Use care when modifying or retiring systems.

3.7 Recognize and take special care of systems that become integrated into the infrastructure of society.

The ACM Code of Ethics

4. Compliance with the Code

4.1 Uphold, promote, and respect the principles of the Code.

4.2 Treat violations of the Code as inconsistent with membership in the ACM.

We've Talked About A Lot of Stuff

Individually

Now:

- academic integrity
- judgmental behavior
- behavior in groups
- welcoming environments

Later:

- behavior as an employee
- behavior when in authority

Collectively

Societal:

- profit
- intellectual property
- privacy

Technological:

- privacy
- algorithmic bias
- gamification

Incorporating Ethical Behavior

How do you plan to incorporate ethical decision making?

What sort of course environment encourages ethical behavior?

What sort of corporate environment encourages ethical behavior?

What situations make it hard to act ethically?

What sorts of environments allow ethically questionable behavior?

What is the role of a computer scientist in determining:

- ethical behavior for software?

- ethical behavior for a company?

- if regulation for technology is appropriate or necessary?

iClicker Question

Computer Scientists have:

- a) No responsibility to ensure ethical behavior
- b) Some responsibility to protect others through ethical behavior
- c) Considerable responsibility to protect others through ethical behavior
- d) All the responsibility to protect others through ethical behavior

Pitfalls

- Moral equilibrium
- Moral licensing
- Overconfidence bias
- Ignoring the abstract in favor of the tangible
- Ethical fading (rationalizations!)
- Incrementalism (slippery slopes!)
- Conformity bias
- Blindly obeying authority
- Self-serving bias
- Framing

Goals

- Moral imagination
- Ethical leadership
 - Consider many sides and approaches to decision
 - Reduce harm to others: physical, emotional, financial, or reputational
- Guide reason with empathy and empathy with reason
 - Consider the circumstances in which others act
- Moral un-muteness
 - Speak up!

Guest Speaker Next Week!

Kay Firth-Butterfield

- Head of AI and Machine Learning at the World Economic Forum
- Fellow, Robert E. Strauss Center on International Security and Law, UT Austin
- Vice-Chair, IEEE Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems
- Co-Founder of AI-Austin, AI-Global and the Consortium for Law and Policy of AI and Robotics
- Barrister-at-law and former part-time judge
- Named one of the top 25 Women in Robotics by Robohub (2017)