The Capstone Experience





Ethics vs Law

- Ethics
 - "Good" vs "Evil" or "Right" vs "Wrong"
 - Moral Judgment

- Choice

- Law
 - Legal vs Illegal
 - Legal Judgment
 - No Choice

Professional/Corporate Ethics



- Professional society
 Licensing Agency
- Government
- Company
- Etc...
- Must obey if you want to ...
 - ...be a member
 - ...be licensed
 - ...do business
- …keep your job
- ...etc

Really More Like Law

Ethics and Professionalism

Lots of Variables

· Who Your...

- ... Employer Is
- ...Customers Are
- Very Different Rules/Laws/Policies
 - Industry
 - Privately Held
 - Publically Held
 - Government
 - Government Contractor
 Educational Institution
 - Etc...

Resources

- University of Virginia
 http://repo-nt.tcc.virginia.edu/ethics/index.htm
- Texas Tech
 <u>http://www.niee.org/pd.cfm?pt=NIEE</u>
- ACM
 <u>http://www.acm.org/constitution/code.html</u>
- IEEE
 <u>http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html</u>

ACM (1 of 5) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct http://www.acm.org/constitution/code.html b. Avoid harm to others. 1. General Moral Imperatives 2. More Specific Professional Responsibilities

- 3. Organizational Leadership Imperatives
- 4. Compliance with the Code

ACM

ACM

4. Compliance With The Code

membership in the ACM.

a. Uphold and promote the principles of this Code. b. Treat violations of this code as inconsistent with

(2 of 5) 1. General Moral Imperatives a. Contribute to society and human well-being. c. Be honest and trustworthy. d. Be fair and take action not to discriminate. e. Honor property rights including copyrights and patent. f. Give proper credit for intellectual property. g. Respect the privacy of others.

h. Honor confidentiality.

 More Specific Professional Responsibilities Strive to achieve the highest quality, effectiveness and dignit in both the process and products of professional work. Acquire and maintain professional competence. Know and respect existing laws pertaining to professional 	y
in both the process and products of professional work. b. Acquire and maintain professional competence.	y
c. Know and respect existing laws pertaining to professional	
work.	
d. Accept and provide appropriate professional review.	
 Give comprehensive and thorough evaluations of computer systems and their impacts, including analysis of possible risk: 	s.
f. Honor contracts, agreements, and assigned responsibilities.	
g. Improve public understanding of computing and its consequences.	
h. Access computing and communication resources only when authorized to do so.	

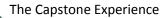
ACM (4 of 5) 3. Organizational Leadership Imperatives Articulate social responsibilities of members of an a. organizational unit and encourage full acceptance of those responsibilities. Manage personnel and resources to design and build b. information systems that enhance the quality of working life. Acknowledge and support proper and authorized uses of an c. organization's computing and communication resources. d. Ensure that users and those who will be affected by a system have their needs clearly articulated during the assessment and design of requirements; later the system must be validated to meet requirements. e.

- Articulate and support policies that protect the dignity of users and others affected by a computing system.
- Create opportunities for members of the organization to learn the principles and limitations of computer systems. f.

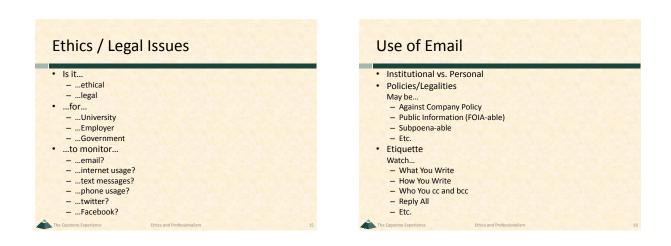
	EEE (1 of 2
aff ob cor	the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in ecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal ligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby mmit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:
1.	to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
2.	to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclost them to affected parties when they do exist;
3.	to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data
4.	to reject bribery in all its forms;
5.	to improve the understanding of technology, its appropriate application, and potential consequences;

2

(5 of 5)









Use of Hardware/Software

- Institutional vs. Personal
- May Be Specific Policies
 - Use
 - Loading Software
 - Etc.
- Software "Borrowed" From...
 - Relative or Friend
 - Bit Torrent
 - Open Source
- Etc.

The Capstone Experience

Ethics/Legal Scenario

- Your boss asks you to write a library in C# to handle linked lists, including functions like insert, delete, sort, search, etc.
- You google "C# linked list" and find a very well written, very well documented library that does most of what you need.
- The web site explicitly says that everyone and anyone is free to use the library for any purposes whatsoever for free and forever.
- You download the library, add a bit of functionality, and submit it to your boss for inclusion in your company's new product.
- Is this ethical? Legal? How owns what?

Ethics/Legal Scenario

- You miss a meeting for your capstone team. You were at Midnight Madness, but you tell your teammates that you were sick. Is this ethical? Legal?
- You are being deposed under oath and you say that you missed your capstone meeting because you were sick when you were really at Midnight Madness. Is this ethical? Legal?

(Note: Rules and consequences change after graduation. Be careful!)

Ethics/Legal Scenario

- For your English literature class you are assigned a paper on Stephen Crane's novel The Red Badge of Courage. You buy a paper on termpaper.com and submit it. Ethical? Legal?
- You work for a consulting firm and are assigned
- the task of evaluating routers and writing a whitepaper for a client. You google and find performance data and writing, which you use in your paper. Ethical? Legal?

Ethics/Legal Scenario

 You work at a company that stores sensitive data (medical records, social service records, etc.). You have access to data, and download them to your notebook computer, and bring it home to finish a report. You also back up a copy of the data to your home computer in order to work at home.

Is this ethical? Legal? Against company policy?

Ethics/Legal Scenario

You work as a software engineer on an medical equipment. The project is late and the software does not work to specifications. You think the issues are safety critical, but your boss, who has managed these kinds of projects for years, says it's of no concern. And, after all, the project is late and over budget.

What should you do? What would you do?

Ethics/Legal Scenario

You are a consultant, asked to evaluate designs and recommend a solution for a company. You conclude that one particular company has the best solution. However, you do not mention that you have a significant financial interest in the company you recommended.

Is this ethical? Legal?

The Capstone Experience

Ethics/Legal Scenario

You have an idea for a company and a web site. You hire another MSU student to do some design work and initial programming. The student never does any work for you. Instead he/she goes off and start his/her own competing company and web site based on your ideas. His/her web site is a phenomenal hit. His/her company is valued at over \$33.7B. Your company is valued at \$0.

Is this ethical? Legal?

Ethics/Legal Scenarios: Freebies

From a customer and/or vendor can you accept...

- ...shirts? SWAG?
- ...lunch or dinner?
- ...golf outing in Florida?
- ...golf clubs?
- ...educational cruise in the Bahamas?
- ...consulting contract for you?
- ...consulting contract for a family member?
- ...job for a family member?
- ...etc...?

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