

The Essence of Cyber Ethics

“A Book Review on the Contemporary Moral Problems & The Handbook of
Information and Computer Ethics”

By Jeric Gustilo

De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde
Information Technology Ethics

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Preface

The Essence of Cyber Ethics “A book review on the Contemporary Moral Problems and The Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics” is a book review that offers the reader an insight on the practices, problems and the world of Cyber Ethics. This book review emphasizes the importance and Information and Computer Ethics and gives us information on how to develop as ethical persons and how to avoid the problems of ethics. It also offers the readers with a glimpse of the world of Information Technology. Information and Computer Ethics sets the boundaries for the computer users when interacting with Information Technology.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to:

My family especially my parents for their love and support in giving me the quality education that I deserve.

My music library for keeping me company while doing this book review because it gave me the strength and determination to finish this.

My friends especially for those I talked to online because the conversations I had with them made me relax in between work on this book review and avoid me from cramming.

My professor for teaching us what we need to know on Information Ethics.

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The Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics

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Egoism and Moral Scepticism

By James Rachels

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

Explain the legend of Gyges. What questions about morality are raised by the story?

Legend portrays that Gyges, discovered a cave where he pocketed a golden ring wherein an enthroned corpse was wearing. Gyges used the ring which gives the wearer the power of invisibility so to take over the throne; he seduced the queen and murdered the king. In the words of Glaucon, man has difficulty to resist temptation which makes morality a social construction which is why Gyges used the ring through his selfishness.

- a. How will the so-called virtuous man behave?
- b. Why shouldn't a man simply do what he pleases?
- c. What reason is there for him to continue being "moral" when it is clearly not to his own advantage to do so?

Psychological egoism vs. Ethical egoism

Psychological egoism is the view wherein all men are selfish in whatever they do. Belief has it that acting in this way is to their own advantage, not by benefiting others through their act.

Ethical egoism is the view of how people want or should act. This leads to having no obligation, just based on their self interest.

Rachels' 2 arguments on Psychological Egoism

Describing one person's action as "selfish" and another person's as "unselfish" makes the action voluntary because the person/s motive is based on self-interest wherein the crucial fact of psychological egoism is overlooked. Rachels' reply to this argument was:

- 1.) There are things that we do not have any choice but to do it in order to achieve something in the end.
- 2.) There are things we do because we are obliged to do them no matter what the end will bring.

Selfishness is the act of only thinking about yourself and the good it brings to you. Being unselfish is the act of thinking of others equal to yourself and the good it brings to each one. Rachels' reply to this argument was, a person who resists the satisfaction from helping someone makes that person selfish because a person who does not resist the satisfaction from helping someone makes the person unselfish.

The point is, having a positive attitude towards something makes the person unselfish while having a negative attitude towards something makes the person selfish.

Rachels' 3 confusions

- a. The confusion of selfishness with self-interest.
- b. The assumption that every action is done either from self-interest or from other motives.
- c. The common but false assumption that a concern for one's own welfare is incompatible with the concern for the welfare of others.

Why is ethical egoism inconsistent?

A person is hurt but the motive is about understanding suffering and how most people take the consequence in order to achieve something. Rachels does not accept this argument because he believes that people act on their own interest under no obligation to do anything which is used to their own advantage.

Why shouldn't we hurt others and instead, help others?

It is unethical to hurt others because ethical people respect the rights and interest of others. The egoist replies as kindly and considerate as anyone else which makes them not such a bad person. They use the situation to their advantage and think of the good that it can bring to each one.

Discussion

Rachels says that it is important that the assumptions underlying our moral practices should not be confused with particular judgments within the practice. Even though we tend to make constant and miserable errors, we should still be able to make accurate moral judgments and know what we are supposed to do.

People care about others because they all want a happy and secure society. Some people do unethical things to be noticed by raising challenges for others. Some do unethical things because they see no hope for change.

An action is moral when it is focused toward benefitting others not just yourself and your own interest.

Religion, Morality, and Conscience

By John Arthur

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

How are morality and religion different?

Morality focuses on the social conduct of people in dealing with situations and how they differentiate the good from the bad practices.

Religion focuses on the beliefs of how people are brought closer to the truth and development of religious values.

Why isn't religion necessary for moral motivation?

I disagree. I believe in religion being necessary for moral motivation because it motivates people to be good and stand up for what is right. It is beneficial to the lives of people because they are able to lead others to a better life and everyone is treated equally in the image and likeness of god and without god, there will be no right or wrong.

Why isn't religion necessary as a source for moral knowledge?

Again, I disagree. Religion is necessary as a source for moral knowledge because people will understand what is right from wrong and will be able to better analyze why another person is acting that way. With moral knowledge in religion, people are motivated to do the right thing in order to have a better life.

What is the divine command theory? Why does Arthur reject this theory?

The divine command theory is a theory that claims god being at the foundation of morality because god is all-good, almighty and all-powerful. We were born to carry god's image and likeness so god must be at the center of our lives wherein god is the creator of everything in the world.

Arthur rejects the divine command theory because he believes that there should be a more solid foundation in morality rather than god. He does not see religion necessary for moral motivation and as a source for moral knowledge.

How are morality and religion connected?

Both morality and religion are connected because it focuses on the good wherein a person is pleased with him or herself when doing something ethical. Morality is a foundation of

religion it develops the values of people to be able to do what is right and be able to answer the calling brought to us by god.

John Dewey says that morality is social. What does this mean, according to Arthur?

Morality is developed and practiced during social interaction because a person experiences and feels the values being implemented when engaged in this kind of situation. Morality must be thought in order to develop our thinking and address change.

Discussion Questions

Has Arthur refuted the divine command theory? How can it be defended?

Arthur refuted the divine command theory because he believes that there should be a more solid foundation in morality rather than god. To be able to defend it, we must learn when it is an obligation by god and when we are prohibited from doing the act. We need to create a standard wherein the divine command theory will be practiced and respected because god is the source of it and we are obliged to follow to achieve morality.

How can we have any obligations to nonhuman animals?

God created the nonhuman animals to provide humankind with company in this world. We were not meant to be alone so god gave us the privilege and obligation to treat nonhuman animals the way we treat our fellow kind with equality.

What does John Dewey mean by moral education? Does a college ethics class count as moral education?

Moral education is essential to our learning because it develops our knowledge of being the best moral person that we can be. A college ethics class counts as moral education because it talks about morality and relates to real-life scenarios wherein the students are to experience in the future.

Master and Slave-Morality **By Friedrich Nietzsche**

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

How does Nietzsche characterize a good and healthy society?

A good and healthy society is a society which is free from master and slave-morality because it balances all works and levels of life and it does not control individuals in doing tasks.

What is Nietzsche's view of injury, violence, and exploitation?

Nietzsche's view on injury is those people that are unable to maintain their strength.

Nietzsche's view on violence is that evil exist wherein people who are selfish take advantage of master and slave morality to torture individuals that do not obey orders.

Nietzsche's view on exploitation is that people are different and they are characterized as strong or weak to see you can be dominated and exploited in an unjust manner.

Master morality vs. slave morality

Master morality emphasizes power, strength, egoism and freedom.

Slave morality emphasizes weakness, submission, sympathy and love.

What is the Will to Power?

The Will to Power is a person's drive towards domination and exploitation of something in an unjust manner.

Discussion Questions

Does Nietzsche's work inspire Nazism?

Germans only claimed Nietzsche's desire for a greater individualism and personality development through his works. His works were misinterpreted and exploited towards Nazism.

What does it mean to be a "creator of values"?

A creator of values is a person that engages in creative acts through a purpose and motivation.

Trying Out One's New Sword **By Mary Midgley**

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

What is "moral isolationism"?

Moral isolationism is the view where people are not allowed to criticize cultures in which they are not accustomed with and are asked to show a respectful attitude towards it because people tend to be biased and show unwanted judgment to the culture.

What question does Midgley ask about the Japanese custom of tsujigiri?

The Japanese custom of tsujigiri is a custom of the Japanese people which allows samurai's to attack a human person randomly after developing a new fighting style or receiving a new weapon to test its effectiveness.

1. Does the isolating barrier work both ways?
2. Does the isolating barrier between cultures block praise as well as blame?
3. What is involved in judging?

What is wrong with moral isolationism, according to Midgley?

The problem with moral isolationism is that people usually take it up because they think it is a respectful attitude to other cultures.

What does Midgley think is the basis for criticizing other cultures?

We have to know enough information before making a judgment.

Discussion Questions

Midgley says that Nietzsche is an immoralist. Is that an accurate and fair assessment of Nietzsche?

Yes because Nietzsche praised cruelty, denounced pity and entertained mass exterminations in which the idea was oversimplified.

Do you agree with Midgley's claim that the idea of separate and unmixed cultures is unreal?

Having a separate and unmixed culture is real because respecting it means that you are not being a discriminator and racist and you know how to get along with different cultures. They are to be appreciated and respected for who they are.

Utilitarianism

By John Stuart Mill

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

State and explain the Principle of Utility. Show how it could be used to justify actions that are conventionally viewed as wrong, such as lying and stealing.

Actions or behaviors are right when it promotes happiness or pleasure, wrong when unhappiness or pain is produced. Lying and stealing can be justified as wrong because both cases produce unhappiness or pain wherein with lying, the person does not get the expected answer while in pain, people lose personal or things with sentimental value to them which is hard to let go.

How does Mill reply to the objection that Epicureanism is a doctrine worthy only of swine?

Mill argued that the epicurean concept of pleasures is not a doctrine worthy of swine because of the distinguishment between higher and lower pleasures and the claim that humans are not like swines in some respects.

How does Mill distinguish between higher and lower pleasures?

With the principle of utility, Mill distinguishes between higher and lower pleasures by stating that some kinds of pleasure are more desirable and more valuable than others.

According to Mill, whose happiness must be considered?

The happiness of the human person must be considered because humans have the ability and consciousness more elevated than that of animals when achieving happiness.

Carefully reconstruct Mill's proof of the Principle of Utility?

John Stuart Mill stated that happiness is desirable while all other things are only desirable as a means of an end.

Discussion Questions

Is happiness nothing more than pleasure, and the absence of pain?

Yes. Happiness is nothing more than pleasure and the absence of pain because the state of happiness only desires pleasure and freedom from pain. It is the state of having positive emotions that ranges from contentment to intense joy.

Does Mill convince you that the so-called higher pleasures are better than the lower ones? What about the person of experience who prefers the lower pleasures over the higher ones?

Yes because higher pleasures are intellectual pleasure in nature while lower pleasures are only sensual pleasures. I am not totally convinced by people that prefer the lower pleasures but I respect their decision and treat them equally. I will convince them to go after higher pleasures because it allows them to be creative compared to the lower ones.

Mill says, "In the golden rule of Jesus of Nazareth, we read the complete spirit of the ethics of utility." Is this true or not?

Yes. Mill emphasized the connection of the golden rule with kindness and benevolence which signifies Christ and the social utility that flows from it.

Many commentators have thought that Mill's proof of the Principle of Utility is defective. Do you agree? If so, then what mistake or mistakes does he make? Is there any way to reformulate the proof so that it is not defective?

I disagree because the proof of the principle of utility is correct.

The Debate over Utilitarianism

By James Rachels

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

Rachels says that classical utilitarianism can be summed up in three propositions. What are they?

First proposition is based on the knowing of our actions through judgment.

Second proposition is the balance of happiness over unhappiness through right actions by knowing its consequences after judgment.

Third proposition is calculating the happiness and unhappiness we felt after our action.

Explain the problem with hedonism. How do defenders of utilitarianism respond to this problem?

Hedonism does not see the distinction of pleasure and pain because it would assume that there is no problem with an individual's emotions. Defenders of utilitarianism use their knowledge to help individuals understand the distinction to be able to solve the problem.

What are the objections about justice, rights and promises?

Justice, rights and promises are very restrictive to some people because it does not give them the freedom to do everything they want.

Distinguish between rule- and act-utilitarianism. How does rule-utilitarianism reply to the objections?

Rule-utilitarianism judges actions based on the goodness of its consequences. Rule-utilitarianist reply to these objections by analyzing the problem before making their judgment.

Act-utilitarianism, on the other hand, bases on morality that creates the most happiness.

What is the third line of defense?

The third line of defense is the means of finding and creating ways to learn from what surrounds us.

Discussion Questions

Smart's defense of utilitarianism is to reject common moral beliefs when they conflict with utilitarianism. Is this acceptable to you or not? Explain.

This is not acceptable to me because common moral beliefs connect with utilitarianism because it creates and brings happiness to each individual.

A utilitarian is supposed to give moral consideration to all concerned. Who must be considered? What about nonhuman animals? How about lakes and streams?

Everything that is present since existence.

Rachels claims that the merit should be given moral consideration independent of utility. Do you agree?

No because morality and utility work together.

The Categorical Imperative By Immanuel Kant

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

Explain Kant's account of good will.

Kant states that good will is good without qualification. His account of good analyzes what makes a good person good with regards to human will.

Distinguish between hypothetical and categorical imperatives.

A hypothetical imperative has conditions on some goals or desires which do not make it absolute and universal in nature.

A categorical imperative is a moral obligation that is absolute and universal in nature.

State the first formulation of the categorical imperative (using the notion of a universal law), and explain how Kant uses this rule to derive some specific duties toward self and others.

“Act only according to that maxim whereby you can, at the same time, will that it should become a universal law.” A categorical imperative, as a moral obligation, must be complied with because people should not only think of themselves but for others as well.

State the second version of the categorical imperative (using the language of means and end), and explain it.

“Act in such a way that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, always at the same time as an end and never merely as a means to an end.” People should always act as they are able to comply with our moral duties.

Discussion Questions

Are the two versions of the categorical imperative just different expressions of one basic rule, or are they two different rules? Defend your view.

The two versions of the categorical imperative are different expressions of one basic rule because the message it brings reminds us that we have a moral obligation to care for ourselves and others as well.

Kant claims that an action that is not done from the motive of duty has no moral worth. Do you agree or not? If not, give some counterexamples.

Yes because an action should express good will to have moral worth. Some commentators think that the categorical imperatives (particularly the first formulation) can be used to justify nonmoral or immoral actions. Is this a good criticism?

No because immoral actions do not qualify as a universal law.

Happiness and Virtue

By Aristotle

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

What is happiness, according to Aristotle? How is it related to virtue? How is it related to pleasure?

Aristotle described happiness by achieving eudaimonia, its rough translation. Eudaimonia is about being all that you can to be able to fulfill your potential. According to Aristotle, the practice of virtues equate to happiness by achieving balance and moderation. Happiness is related to pleasure by the act of living in balance and moderation that results in the highest pleasure possible.

How does Aristotle explain moral virtue? Give some examples.

It is the state of character that lies at the mean between extremes of excess and deficiency. Moral virtue is composed of feeling, choosing and acting well. Some examples of moral virtues are acceptance, creativity and discipline.

Is it possible for everyone in our society to be happy, as Aristotle explains it? If not, who cannot be happy?

Yes because every person has the right to fulfill their potential.

Discussion Questions

Aristotle characterizes a life of pleasure as suitable for beasts. But what, if anything, is wrong with a life of pleasure?

People that seek pleasure mistakenly seek it in the wrong places.

Aristotle claims that the philosopher will be happier than anyone else. Why is this? Do you agree or not?

I disagree because no one human being can be happier than everyone else. All human beings seek happiness.

The Nature and Value of Rights
By Joel Feinberg

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

Describe Nowheresville. How is this world different from our world?

Nowheresville is a world that lacks identity or individual qualities. It is different from our world because we are in a world where most of us have identity or individual qualities.

Explain the doctrine of the logical correlativity of rights and duties. What is Feinberg's position on this doctrine?

Duties entail people's rights while rights entail people's duties so everyone has to comply with their rights and duties. Feinberg's position is to engage through claiming.

How does Feinberg explain the concept of personal desert? How would personal desert work in Nowheresville?

According to Feinberg, personal desert is the event of deserving something good but not having a right to it. Personal desert will work in Nowheresville because it lacks identity or individual qualities.

Explain the notion of a sovereign right-monopoly. How would this work in Nowheresville according to Feinberg?

Sovereign right monopoly is by deserving something good and having a right to it. This will not work in Nowheresville because we have rights when deserving something good.

What are claim-rights? Why does Feinberg think they are morally important?

Claim rights are the connections between personal rights and claims. Feinberg's notion of claim rights is that rights are a kind of claim while claims are assertions of rights.

Discussion Questions

Does Feinberg make a convincing case for the importance of rights? Why or why not?

Yes because we practice rights because it is important in our world to have meaning in life.

Can you give a noncircular definition of claim-right?

No.

Taking Rights Seriously
By Ronald Dworkin

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

What does Dworkin mean by right in the strong sense? What rights in this sense are protected by the U.S. Constitution?

According to Dworkin, the right in the strong sense means that interference by person is prohibited when another person has a right to do something. Some of the rights protected by the U.S. Constitution are the right of people to elect members of the House of Representatives and the right to privacy.

Distinguish between legal and moral rights. Give some examples of legal rights that are not moral rights, and moral rights that are not legal rights.

Legal rights are rights that rely on laws, customs and beliefs. An example of this is the right to education.

Moral rights are rights that do not need the approval of government to exist. An example of this is the right to marriage.

What are the two models of how a government might define the rights of its citizens? Which does Dworkin find more attractive?

The first model emphasizes balance between the rights of individuals and the demands of society.

The second model is that the government inflates a right. Dworkin finds this more attractive because the right will be made effective.

According to Dworkin, what two important ideas are behind the institution of rights?

It is the Act of faith by the Majorities and Minorities.

Discussion Questions

Does a person have a right to break the law? Why or why not?

We have the right to break the law because when a law leads to immorality, it is our right and duty not to comply with it.

Are rights in the strong sense compatible with Mill's utilitarianism?

Yes because the person is given a right to do something.

Do you think that Kant would accept rights in the strong sense or not?

Yes because Kant promotes the equality and dignity of individuals.

A Theory of Justice
By John Rawls

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

Explain Rawls' conception of the original position.

John Rawls' conception was designed to be fair in our reasoning on the fundamental principles of justice because all of us are in the position to be free and equal persons.

State and explain Rawls' first principle of justice.

The first principle involves equal liberty. It cannot be sacrificed for the sake of the second principle.

State and explain the second principle. Which principle has priority such that it cannot be sacrificed?

The second principle is concerned with the arrangement of social and economic inequalities. This emphasizes equal opportunity among individuals. The first principle must be given priority before moving on to the second principle.

Discussion Questions

On the first principle, each person has an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty as long as this does not interfere with a similar liberty for others. What does this allow people to do? Does it mean, that people have a right to engage in homosexual activities as long as they don't interfere with others? Can people produce and view pornography if it does not restrict anyone's freedom? Are people allowed to take drugs in the privacy of their homes?

This allows people to be free from unnecessary interventions with their lives. People cannot engage in homosexual activities, produce and view pornography and take drugs because values and morality still implies with their actions.

Is it possible for free and rational persons in the original position to agree upon different principles than those given by Rawls? Why wouldn't they agree to an equal distribution of wealth and income rather than an unequal distribution? Why wouldn't they adopt socialism rather than capitalism? Isn't socialism just as rational as capitalism?

They can agree upon different principles if it is beneficial. The basis of income depends on the person's performance at work. Capitalism is a form of society that separates the economy from the state while socialism is a society wherein resources are benefitted by the whole economy. Capitalism and socialism are different because of its focus.

The Need for More Than Justice
By Annette Baier

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0840033788/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1299083878&sr=1-1

Review Questions

Distinguish between the justice and care perspectives. According to Gilligan, how do these perspectives develop?

Justice perspective overlooks the inequalities between individuals while the care perspective focuses on the relations of people with others. Justice and care should be harmonized to equally benefit men and women.

Explain Kohlberg's theory of moral development. What criticisms do Gilligan and Baier make of this theory?

Identity expands to include the experience of interconnection between individuals. Gilligan and Baier stated the pre-conventional, conventional and post-conventional levels as their criticisms.

Baier says there are three important differences between Kantian liberals and their critics. What are these differences?

The relative weight put on relationships between equality.

The relative weight put on freedom of choice.

The authority of intellect over emotions.

Why does Baier attack the Kantian view that the reason should control unruly passions?

Reason should control unruly passions so that equality, freedom of choice and the authority of intellect will prosper.

Discussion Questions

What does Baier mean when she speaks of the need "to transvalue the values of our patriarchal past"? Do new values replace the old ones? If so, then do we abandon the old values of justice, freedom, and rights?

We must not forget the values of our past and share it with the future generations. New values should be added, not replace the old ones but retain.

What is wrong with the Kantian view that extends equal rights to all rational beings, including women and minorities? What would Baier say? What do you think?

There is nothing wrong with the Kantian view. Baier's view is that every person should be treated differently. I disagree with Annette Baier because I believe that every person has the right to be treated equally.

Baier seems to reject the Kantian emphasis on freedom of choice. Granted, we do not choose our parents, but still don't we have freedom of choice about many things, and isn't this very important?

Yes. Freedom of choice is a right and a privilege.

Chapter 1: Foundation of Information Ethics

By Luciano Floridi

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: I expect to understand and learn about the foundation of information and computer ethics.

Quote: “Ethics can be understood as the problematization of morality.” – Rafael Capurro

Review

All over the world today, information is rapidly growing and dominating every aspect of our society be it economic, business or property services, communication, finance and insurance. The foundation of information and computer ethics has made it possible for an information revolution because mostly every person nowadays knows how to navigate a computer which is now a part of our daily activities and jobs. As a way of life, people are dependent on computers and information because of the support in which information and communication technology infrastructures offer us. With the world of information technology growing and a pressing task to solve ethical problems developing, users and information technology professionals must learn to control their data, information and knowledge because it is were ethical perspectives come from so it is best to learn how to solve these problems and issues despite its complexity and global dimensions.

Information and computer ethics focuses on moral issues with regards to information privacy, environmental issues, and problems arising from the information life-cycle because these are needed for an ethical foundation. People know how to differ right and wrong, sometimes they only think of what can benefit them despite the consequences that can happen. This is the Information Revolution. Welcome to the Information Society where information is the cornerstone of our everyday decisions.

What I have learned: Information and computer ethics was based from freedom of speech and in the freedom of printed works that had a special emphasis on the freedom of the press.

Integrative questions

1. Why is ethics based on the challenges and power structures of communication?
2. Why is questioning the metaphysical ambitions of digital ontology the primary aim of the foundation of information ethics?
3. How did computer ethics affect the past generations?
4. Why does information ethics relate to digital ontology?
5. How is the birth of philosophy in Greece related to problematization?

Sources

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-computer/>

Chapter 2: Milestones in the History of Information and Computer Ethics **By Terrell Ward Bynum**

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The impact of Information and Computer Ethics.

Quote: “Ethics is nothing else than reverence for life” – Albert Schweitzer

Review

The creation of a new kind of anti-aircraft cannon wherein it works automatically and on its own is present in our time today. Information Technology is developing new trends and moving towards inventions wherein technology is independent of human intervention. One of the goals for the future is a second industrial revolution or can also be known as the automatic age because we need to use information technology to our advantage wherein it will be able to benefit humanity in the future. I absolutely believe that a second industrial revolution or an automatic age is possible in the future because of the vast development and improvement of technology to support information.

With the vast development and constant improvement of technology, its impact in society can be felt by people in their jobs and daily activities because for example, everywhere we go we can have our smart phones in our hand and access the web. Information and computer ethics have improved to aid the information society and lead the revolution to a bright future. The social and ethical impacts of computing became obvious to the world because scientists that dedicated their time and hard work to technology did not give up on the matter. Computer ethics deals with the way how computing professionals are to formulate their decisions through professional and social conduct.

The growth of computer ethics plays a major role today and in the future because it aids and supports the computer infrastructures which aids and supports our activities.

What I have learned: Norbert Wiener and his group realized that their invention had an enormous potential for good and evil.

Integrative questions

1. What milestones did Information and Computer Ethics achieve?
2. How did these milestones help change computing?
3. How did these milestones impact our ethical perspectives?
4. How did World War II trigger the invention of digital computers?
5. How did Norbert Wiener and/or his group come up with the idea?

Sources

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-computer/>

Chapter 3: Moral Methodology and Information Technology **By Jeroen van den Hoven**

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: I expect to learn about the importance of Moral Methodology.

Quote: “Moral Methodology does not fall victim to the false dilemma.” – Jeroen van den Hoven

Review

Ethics deals with placing a “value” on acts to identify whether the action is right or wrong. Everyone knows how to distinguish right from wrong because without rules, there won't be peace and order in our society and in every aspect of life. Everyone will just be doing whatever they want because it will be highly possible and no one will stop them even if the action they take part in is unethical. Both the society and government must learn to be ethical because it is for the common good but they must also practice to respect the human rights of people.

No person in society must be treated unfairly because they would lose their privacy and dignity when engaged in unethical actions. Computer Ethics was formulated with respect to Human Ethics because in using technology, people engage themselves to danger wherein it is now possible for hackers to hack into technological devices. Rules have now been formulated as laws because it is what is required from every person to follow and it sets the restrictions of what cannot be done. Proper Computer Ethics is to be followed and implemented because of the rapid development and vast improvements of Information Technology in our society today which is now known as the Information Society.

Computer Ethics can be related to the Value Sensitive Design or VSD because it refers to an approach that focuses on the design of technology and accounts for human values through the design process in a principled and systematic manner.

What I have learned: Moral Methodology never becomes a victim of false dilemma.

Integrative questions

1. What is Moral Methodology?
2. How does this benefit and affect the development of Information Technology?
3. How do we approach Moral Methodologies?

Sources

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<http://www.cmpe.boun.edu.tr/~say/c150/intro/lit10.html>

Chapter 4: Value Sensitive Design and Information Systems

By Batya Friedman, Peter H. Kahn Jr., and Alan Borning

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What is the importance of Value Sensitive Design in Information Systems?

Quote: “On occasion, some changes can mean the societal rejection of a technology, or that its acceptance is delayed.” – Batya Friedman

Review

As introduced in the previous chapter, Value Sensitive Design or VSD refers to an approach that focuses on the design of technology and accounts for human values through the design process in a principled and systematic manner. Value Sensitive Design accounts to human values and the programmer’s output which must be respected. Information Systems primarily enable businesses to be more efficient in their routine tasks by optimizing Value Sensitive Design because they want to emphasize good moral ethics when dealing with people and individual or group task. Ethics is very important in our lives because to our advantage, it can earn us the trust and satisfaction of our clients because every person wants and deserves to be treated equally.

Information Systems are intended to be iterative and tend to follow Value Sensitive Design to allow the system designer to be able to modify the design whenever needed. Value Sensitive Design and Information Systems connect with people who design the system with those that think and understand about the values of its clients when affected by the information systems. We are also required to broaden the goals and criteria to emphasize quality of information systems that will benefit its users. In doing this, our users will be able to improve workflow and consistency in each task that they are assigned to.

Value Sensitive Design is an important implementation because the designer and program need to access the system in a constant manner to be able to assist their client in time of difficulty.

What I have learned: Human values and ethical considerations need to be taken seriously.

Integrative questions

1. How does this practice benefit information systems as well as its users?
2. How do I understand the iterative process of Value Sensitive Design?

Sources

<http://comm6480rpi.blogspot.com/2009/10/values-sensitive-design-and-information.html>

Chapter 5: Personality-Based, Rule-Utilitarian, and Lockean Justifications of Intellectual Property

By Adam D. Moore

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: I expect to learn about Intellectual Property and how it benefits an information system.

Quote: “In this age, the man who dares to think for himself and to act independently does a service to his race” – John Stuart Mill

Review

As stated by Adam D. Moore, Intellectual Property or IP refers to the imagination and creation of ideas in our mind which includes inventions, artistic works and symbols, names, images and designs used in commerce. Intellectual Property means that we used our knowledge and expertise to create an entity known as an information system that will benefit our clients in their job activities. This is based on the type of business and job description our system will be used for because through our intellectual property, we as the programmer and designer would know and understand the best solution to cater to the needs of the business. Intellectual property is an extension of individual personality because we need property to be able to engage in tasks and both need to be used in ethical manners.

All of us are in control of our feelings, character traits and experiences and it is our responsibility since this is a part and normal in people’s lives. This helps motivate and develop our intellectual property ideas because our feelings, character traits and experiences reflect on our work. Utilitarianism means that moral worth is determined through the use and impacts of utility. Rule-Utilitarianism is a form of utilitarianism which is based on actions being moral by complying with rules to bring out the most out of its benefits. Long term benefits are benefits that are available for an extended time in which the clients will be safe and secure with the information system that their business has.

Integrative questions

1. How can we make the most out of our utilities?
2. How is intellectual property related to individual personality?
3. What is the importance of utilitarianism in ethics?
4. How can we ensure long term benefits for our clients?
5. What strategies can we use to develop our intellectual property thinking?

Sources

<http://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/>

Chapter 6: Informational Privacy: Concepts, Theories, and Controversies

By Herman T. Tavani

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: I expect to learn about the concepts, theories and controversies surrounding informational privacy.

Quote: “Privacy is an evolving concept” – By Herman T. Tavani

Review

Privacy is the ability of an individual or group to share their information selectively to every user because it is important and needed since people are cautious of the dangerous that can happen if they do not have privacy. Hackers dislike privacy so they breach into the information system to gather data through ethical hacking wherein they retrieve private information from different users. There are people who are really strict when it comes to privacy, they do everything to avoid the realm of publicity because these people do not want their information to spread and are protective of themselves as well. Exposing private information therefore depends on how the public accesses the information because privacy settings differ between places and time.

Privacy therefore is an aspect of or similar to security because it means that there is something confidential that needs to be hidden or only allowed to be accessed by selected users. It is best to set and make sure that your information is secure because this is the most important part in every information systems so it should be blocked from hackers because confidential information is what they are running after. Technology-based controversies are huge in our generation right now because of the vast development and constant improvement of technology so the use of technology engages us in controversies which affect our informational privacy. Internet users favor protection policies to help protect their information and keep it private wherein users have the right to choose and control their level of exposure.

Integrative questions

1. What are the concepts of informational privacy?
2. What are the theories of informational privacy?
3. How can I protect my information from hackers?
4. How can I address controversies regarding informational privacy?
5. What are the appropriate policies for protecting informational privacy?

Sources

<http://cqresearcherblog.blogspot.com/2010/06/privacy-controversy-prompts-facebook.html>

Chapter 7: Online Anonymity

By Kathleen A. Wallace

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: How does online anonymity support and affect our privacy?

Quote: “It’s bad enough to tarnish reputations and to publish insults, but if the people doing so identify themselves, there is at least a possibility of censure and accountability.”

– Richard Bernstein

Review

First what is online anonymity, it is a state wherein a person or group’s identity is hidden or kept private from the public. Being anonymous has its advantages and disadvantages because when you ask a group of people, each one will have their own opinion since everyone has their perspective on anonymity. People that like to be anonymous are very protective of their personal identity because being too public can lead to consequences. Some people find ways and means to be and stay anonymous to avoid threat but anonymity also has many illegal reasons to hide from since the world that we live in today is very unpredictable.

Instead of being anonymous, faceless IP addresses, social computing and changing technologies have allowed the boundaries between the real world and the virtual world to coincide. The new age of the internet known as Web 2.0 allows web users to interact and collaborate with each other in a social media setting as the consumers of user-generated content in a virtual community. One example of this is the social networking site, Facebook because the users are free to browse any content that other users have when they are already “friends”. Facebook also has its issues of anonymity wherein comments coming from some users say that other users that are not in their network are able to view their private content though the configuration of the privacy settings.

My advice would be to learn how to be use anonymity in an ethical way so that it would not affect your personal identity.

Integrative questions

1. Why is anonymity a tremendous aid for the resentful, scandalous and cowardly?
2. How does the internet provide a techno-glamour with regards to anonymity?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being anonymous?
4. Is it ethical to be anonymous? How?
5. Is it unethical to be anonymous? How?

Sources

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/the_end_of_online_anonymity.php

Chapter 8: Ethical Issues Involving Computer Security: Hacking, Hacktivism, and Counterhacking

By Kenneth Einar Himma

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: A better understanding on computer hacking.

Quote: “Computer Hacking allows people to showcase their abilities, not an opportunity to harm others.”

Review

A hacker is a computer hobbyist that can be described as an Incompatible time sharing system because of their playful spirit and how they apply their cleverness in computing. They may also be know as people committed to engage in unauthorized remote computer or computer security break-ins through a communication network such as the internet. Another role of hackers includes the debugging and fixing of security problems. Besides from cracking into security system; hackers love programming, they love exploring new and various ways on what they can do with computers by making innovative customizations or combinations of computer equipment.

A thriving community of hackers shares their knowledge in continuing to improve an operating system by adding new capabilities. When a hacker loves what he is doing and his or her fellow hackers within the community love what they are doing as well is the purpose they continue working and thriving for the better. The outside world wanted hackers who created operating systems to have passwords because this enables them to control the users and they did not want to build tools that will give administrators the authority to control them. The vision of the hackers was for the users to be able to do what they want and for past administrators to be controlling present administrators on what they are doing.

They wanted to imply freedom to the users and strengthen computer security as well. Hackers think and figure out ways of decoding things that they do not like and use it to their advantage.

Integrative questions

1. Why do people always think of hackers as being the bad guys?
2. How can we promote ethical hacking?
3. What is the purpose of hacking?
4. Is hacking shaping a new age in the web?

Sources

<http://jeric-revolutionos.blogspot.com/2010/10/revolution-os.html>

Chapter 9: Information Ethics and the Library Profession

By Kay Mathiesen and Don Fallis

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The role of the Library Profession in Information Ethics

Quote: “The library is a temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars of history” – Carl Rowan

Review

In terms of Information Ethics, the Library profession is important because the librarians in the libraries are the masters of the information universe. They are the ones that allow and restrict access for the information that can be found within the library. Librarians are the people that control the knowledge in the library so they must be treated with respect if you want to be helped because they are also knowledgeable of the information in the library. The reason for a library being a silent place is because people that come in close their mouths and open their minds.

Through this, people that are allowed access to the information within the library are focused because they want to get a meaningful output from the books or sources that they have used. These people do not want to waste their time when in a library because time is golden for them. A reason for having librarians in a library is for the purpose of security because for example, books that are borrowed are the libraries property so the librarians are required to be strict and its borrowers are also required to follow rules. Libraries have been preserved because it was built for the past and for the future.

Libraries are used as a place of reflection and adventure because for example, students, it is a necessity and a resource for their learning. It is a place where ideas are born and history is relived where future generations can look back at.

Integrative questions

1. Why are the skills of librarians underestimated and unemployed?
2. Do libraries bring out the best of education?
3. How will librarians encourage readers to practice information ethics?
4. What is the importance of information in Ethics?
5. How do librarians protect every information from theft?

Sources

<http://homepages.gac.edu/~mtwait/favquotes.htm>

Chapter 10: Ethical Interest in Free and Open Source Software **By Frances S. Grodzinsky and Marty J. Wolf**

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: Why do hackers target Free and Open Source Software?

Quote: “Giving the Linus Torvalds award to the Free Software Foundation is sort of like giving the Han Solo award to the Rebel Fleet” – Richard Stallman

Review

The open-source and Free Software Movement played a major role in the beginnings and in the development of software when it was being shared on paper tape for the price of paper itself. Bill Gates did not want computer hobbyists to share, but buy software. Prominent hackers and entrepreneurs including Richard Stallman devoted their life to the development of free software. Richard Stallman did not refuse to share and dominate users because he did not like to betray other people but share it with others as well that is why Richard Stallman created GNU, a Free and Open Source Software.

Richard Stallman wanted to have a complete system which comprises of a kernel that allocates resources to other programs, a compiler that can translate a program from readable source code into numbers, a debugger, text editor, text formats, mailers, etc. to create a UNIX-like workstation (an OS developed in 1969). They want to be able to use the source code for better or for worse, no matter what. The crucial thing about GNU is that it is free software that gives you freedom. Free software enables the administrator to make changes or hire someone else to make the changes for them, to redistribute copies to others to share and make improvements for other people.

Some of the ideological aspects of free software are communism and capitalism. Free software has a copyright, it has its owners and it has a license. It is not a public domain because if it is placed in a public domain, other people may be able to make changes and turn it into a proprietary software pack.

Integrative questions

1. Why are some operating systems forbidden in some communities?
2. Why use Free and Open Source Software?
3. Are the ethical interest on Free and Open Source Software ethical or unethical?
4. How do Free and Open Source Software developers protect their software's from other hackers?
5. Are we moving to the Free and Open Source Software age?

Sources

<http://jeric-revolutionos.blogspot.com/2010/10/revolution-os.html>

Chapter 11: Internet Research Ethics: The Field and Its Critical Issues **By Elizabeth A. Buchanan and Charles Ess**

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The field of Internet Ethics.

Quote: “The internet is the most comprehensive electronic archive of written material representing our world and peoples' opinions, concerns, and desires” – Gunther Eysenbach

Review

First, what is Internet Research Ethics? Internet Research Ethics is a field wherein the research ethics of social science, humanities and scientific research is carried out through the internet. It is an emerging multi-and interdisciplinary field because through research, it studies the ethical implications that arise from the use of the internet. What I understand is that researchers will be able to monitor the use of the internet and gather findings in order to come up with conclusions and findings. Internet Research Ethics is very important because the internet is used for various matters everyday, whether ethical or unethical.

Some users use the internet for communication or information (ex. social networking) while some users use it for unethical pleasures (ex. Hacking). For me, one of the critical issues in the field is if the researchers are able to monitor everything that is happening in the internet because it is impossible to know everything in the world. There will always be users that know something that other users do not know. The ethics of internet research has become an area of concern with regards to the use of the internet because researchers break into the privacy barriers of users but these are important for data and how information ethics can be developed in the views of the researchers.

The internet, as a social domain is used for a variety of purposes where users can access information that they need or like a place to spend quality time in which makes it an important tool.

Integrative questions

1. What makes Internet Research Ethics an important field?
2. How does Internet Research Ethics impact the formation of ideas?
3. How do researchers know which information to gather?
4. How is Internet Research ethical?
5. How is Internet Research unethical?

Sources

http://www.nyu.edu/projects/nissenbaum/ethics_bas_full.html

Chapter 12: Health Information Technology: Challenges in Ethics, Science, and Uncertainty

By Kenneth W. Goldman

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What is Health Information Technology?

Quote: “There are lots of people in this world who spend so much time watching their health that they haven't had the time to enjoy it” – Josh Billings

Review

Health Information Technology or HIT is an umbrella framework which focuses on the comprehensive management of health information. Using this framework will be both advantageous for you and your doctor because technology offers the latest trends to benefit us better. Health Information Technology is important because medical records will be saved on its database rather than writing on paper. It reduces health care cost and improves the quality of care through accurate information because the patient wouldn't need to personally visit the doctor for an update on his or her health status.

By using Health Information Technologies, we are able to keep track of health records as reference because it is stored online so we wouldn't have to worry about lost written documents since it is already in the system. Electronic Prescribing is also a new feature and idea introduced in Health Information Technologies because it will send the prescriptions that you will need to your pharmacy electronically. This will be very helpful so that we will only have to pass for it and pay rather than order and pay. It makes time more flexible.

The challenge in Health Information Technology is how the patient would know if the information coming from the doctor is true. The patient takes the risk by sharing up-to-date information like medical information. Through personal health records in the Health Information Technology, it allows you to take a more active role in managing your health care through the features and functionalities of the system provided for the users.

Integrative questions

1. What started the trend of Health Information Technology?
2. How does it improve our health care?
3. How can you protect your information from unknown users?
4. What are the advantages of Health Information Technology?
5. What are its disadvantages?

Sources

http://healthinsurance.about.com/od/healthinsurancebasics/a/health_IT_overview.htm

Chapter 13: Ethical Issues of Information and Business

By Bernd Carsten Stahl

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: How are information and business affected by ethical issues?

Quote: “Ethics is not definable, is not implementable, because it is not conscious; it involves not only our thinking, but also our feeling.” – Valdemar W. Setzer

Review

As an example of ethical issues of information and business, here are two, involvement in the community and the values of honesty, truthfulness and fairness because information also comes from community which helps gain knowledge while the three values mentioned focus on the influence and action whether something ethical or unethical is happening. Ethics in information and business is important because these are set of rules that we need to follow which is focused on achieving the good rather than the bad. People are required to respect the rules of ethics in information and business because there are consequences that will happen if they do not. One major ethical issue in information technology is unethical hackers because they breach into the security of systems to be able to access private information.

People need to respect the privacy and confidentiality of other people in the context of information technology and business because information just cannot be leaked whenever and wherever. It must be require permission before it is shared with other people that do not own the information. Ethics allows us freedom and censorship of speech to say anything we want but everything must have its limitations to protect private and important information from being leaked. You will know whether a person portrays an ethical or unethical background based on actions, not on words.

How can people live a safe and happy life when there is no ethics? If this happens, there won't be order where every person will be doing whatever they please.

Integrative questions

1. How is ethics practiced in business?
2. How is it monitored in information technology?
3. Why do people engage in unethical actions?
4. How do we stop all the unethical doings?
5. What is the importance of the ethics in information and business to people?

Sources

http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Describe_all_major_ethical_issues_related_to_information_technology_and_identify_situations_in_which_they_occur

Chapter 14: Responsibilities for Information on the Internet

By Anton Vedder

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: Qualifications for information on the internet.

Quote: “True genius resides in the capacity for evaluation of uncertain, hazardous, and conflicting information” – Winston Churchill

Review

We have created the information network because by just having a computer and internet access, anyone can put information up on the web. The internet would know whether the information that we are putting up is accurate or not because it is the internet’s responsibility to provide information to its users and it has its own set of rules on ethics. I would like to see all the unethical sites and information banned and removed from the web so that people would be able to practice proper computer ethics. Users that put up information on the internet hold the responsibility for it.

If anything happens, they will be held liable for it because it is their information that caused the problem. The world of knowledge gathering is changing because of the influence of information that flows through the internet. Everything is created for a purpose and the responsibility lies with the creator so it is best to think first before uploading information onto the internet for ethical purposes. Responsibilities for information on the internet are based and focused on ethics because the internet has rules wherein rules must first be followed before information can be displayed.

Internet security must be enforced when dealing with information made public in the internet because this is what attracts system hackers from hacking into the system to be able to access private information and seize control of the system. People must understand that everything has its consequences so they must be careful and have second thoughts on the action.

Integrative questions

1. What is the information age?
2. How is the world of knowledge gathering changing the way we think?
3. Does the internet check whether information is accurate or not?
4. What influences information on the internet?
5. How is responsibility accounted for in the internet?

Sources

<http://rambleramble.com/2011/02/16/the-internet-information-and-our-responsibility/>

Chapter 15: Virtual Reality and Computer Simulation

By Philip Brey

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: Ethics in virtual reality and computer simulation.

Quote: “Virtual reality is the first step in a grand adventure into the landscape of the imagination” – Mark R. Levy

Review

Virtual reality is indeed the first step in a grand adventure into the landscape of the imagination because it is a computer-generated three-dimensional environment that offers real-time interactivity to the users. The development of virtual reality has come a long way from its predecessors because game designers are able to create a new trend and they can showcase their ideas. The best example for virtual reality and computer simulation is NBA2K11 because the graphics and experience feels looks like the real thing. Virtual reality and computer simulation must keep up with the trend because it shows what the gaming industry has achieved so far.

The virtual world has the quality and characteristic of shedding the boredom in the lives of people. We have also entered into a new era of computer games with the birth of 3D or HD games and consoles because of the capabilities of the gaming industry to create this. 3D gaming was influenced by movies being released in the same format. It allows the user to have a different experience when it comes to gaming because there is always time for something new.

Virtual reality simulates real life logic and rules into a computer simulation to bring new life into a production because 2D is a product of the past and the future needs to produce its own output. Some people get confused with virtual reality because they would think that the video game is the real thing since graphics nowadays makes a difference in the gaming experience.

Integrative questions

1. How is virtual reality and computer simulation connected to ethics?
2. How to know when a game is based on simulated reality or on true reality?
3. Could reality really be simulated?
4. What is the experience of actuality?
5. What is the difference between simulated reality and true reality?

Sources

<http://www.saching.com/Article/Virtual-Reality---Computer-Simulation-Games/521>

Chapter 16: Genetic Information: Epistemological and Ethical Issues

By Antonio Marturano

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What is Genetic Information?

Quote: “In genetic epistemology, as in developmental psychology, too, there is never an absolute beginning” – Jean Piaget

Review

First, what is genetic information? Genetic Information is information about an individual's genetic tests and the genetic tests of an individual's family members. It is also helpful information to know about the manifestation of a disease or disorder of the individual's family member/s. Genetic information is important to be able to monitor the health status of an individual because through this, the research lab or doctor will be able to determine whether there is a risk for disease or a disorder. Through genetic information, doctors or research labs are able to determine the family's medical history because some of the genes of ancestors are inherited to the next generation to carry on.

An ethical issue surrounding genetic information is the discrimination of an individual because it does not affect and individuals ability to work. Employers must see the person's ability through actions, not by appearance. Another is harassment because harassing someone through his or her genetic information is unethical in the eyes of man and forbidden by law. Harassing a person can affect their performance because every person is different and everybody needs to be treated equally to avoid a bad working environment.

It is also unethical to seek revenge when a charge for harassment or discrimination is filed against you or the employer because the people must know their responsibilities in doing an action and they must understand the course of action whether ethical or unethical. Genetic information must only be used by the employee for health related services.

Integrative questions

1. Why is genetic information the subject of discrimination?
2. Why is genetic information the subject of harassment?
3. How can we stop the retaliation of people towards these?
4. What is the relation of genetic information to computer ethics?
5. Is genetic information a basis for employment decisions?

Sources

<http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/genetic.cfm>

Chapter 17: The Ethics of Cyber Conflict

By Dorothy E. Denning

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What is Cyber Conflict?

Quote: “When an infowar weapon is deployed, people may not even be aware it’s happened” – Bruce Schneier

Review

What is cyber conflict? Cyber conflict is a conflict that happens within technological devices and the internet. It can take place between individuals, groups, businesses and countries. With millions of information surrounding the internet, the risk of conflict is high which is why the internet is supported by numerous servers to help control the conflict rate in cyberspace. In cyberspace (internet), when risk increases, the volume of communication also increases which presents the advancements in communication with danger.

Conflict quickly happens online because the rate of information and communication is high. People enter into a level of anonymity because they will act in ways in which they are not comfortable with. To avoid this trend, people must learn to control and understand how to solve conflict issues for them to have a great online experience in the internet. Cyber conflict also occurs when there are many users on a single network because the bandwidth of the internet cannot accommodate a huge number of users which results to slow internet speed.

Hackers are also one of the main reasons for cyber conflicts because they breach into private systems to obtain confidential information for use in unethical acts or to be able to deploy viruses that will severely affect our computing systems. People must know whether they are being attacked by hackers or cyber conflict to be able to counter or fend against them. Unethical hackers are experienced information technology professionals that love to have their way to obtain a piece of hard to get information.

Integrative questions

1. What is the importance of Cyber Conflict?
2. How does this affect us?
3. How do we manage and control Cyber Conflict?
4. What issues engage us in Cyber Conflict?
5. What are the ground rules for this?

Sources

http://www.ehow.com/facts_5955122_cyber-conflict_.html

Chapter 18: A Practical Mechanism for Ethical Risk Assessment – A SoDIS Inspection

By Don Gotterbarn, Tony Clear and Choon-Tuck Kwan

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The practical mechanism for ethical risk assessment.

Quote: “Free software refers not to price, but to freedom” – Richard Stallman

Review

Copyright gives users permission to redistribute copies, to change and add to it but it has to be under the stated terms in which the company agreed to. Copyright also gives freedom to those given the permission to redistribute, change or add. Copyleft on the other hand, is a general idea to make a program and its modifications and extensions free. Hackers and technology entrepreneurs are not afraid to share what they learned and develop their knowledge.

The beginning of Free and Open Source Software was known as Ground Zero because a group of hackers did not agree with the idea of Microsoft in terms of software so they rebelled on the software model and developed Free and Open Source Software. In the beginning, a group of ethical hackers found out that there was room for business to be done and that there is service for free software to be done that can provide support. High quality software has to offer support that satisfies the user from using it. In the case of Microsoft, the company is involved in a monopoly when it comes to the users with regards to its software support.

Typically, one company has the source code and only they can give support to the user. The benefits of free software were tremendous but its cost was what made company managers nervous and resist from buying the product. It is best to analyze the biggest problem of software because minor problems are a subpart of a major problem which will be fixed when working on the major problem.

Integrative questions

1. What do I need to keep in mind when assessing ethical risk?
2. How can I increase the effectiveness of ethical risk assessment in a positive way?
3. How does ethical risk affect my business model?
4. What are other ways to assess ethical risk?
5. What is the importance of assessing ethical risk?

Sources

<http://jeric-revolutionos.blogspot.com/2010/10/revolution-os.html>

Chapter 19: Regulation and Governance of the Internet

By John Weckert and Yeslam Al-Saggaf

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: A better knowledge on internet management.

Quote: “The Internet is like alcohol in some sense. It accentuates what you would do anyway. If you want to be a loner, you can be more alone. If you want to connect, it makes it easier to connect” – Esther Dyson

Review

The internet does not have a governing body that oversees the things happening around it. It follows computer ethics as its set of rules because rules and regulations with the use of the internet and which information is allowed to be put up on the web should first be screened. The internet needs regulation groups because without human entity, issues confronting the future of the internet would not be addressed and the web experience of users will be affected. Ethics is important for the internet because it provides a sense of meaning and order for people when they access the internet.

Another group is the Internet Architecture Board wherein this group is responsible for the standards of the internet. Having set standards makes the goal of the internet clear because it shows focus and determination to provide a great web experience for its users. The web has become a necessity in our everyday living and jobs because it offers useful information and connectivity with other users. The internet is also comprised of the Internet Engineering Task Force wherein this group is responsible for the evolution of the internet architecture and should guarantee smooth operation on a consistent basis.

There are people who are also focused on the past, present and future development and management of the internet because they will be able to voice out their concerns since we are the beneficiaries of the internet. The internet must be able to make work easier at the same time increase task productivity for the user.

Integrative questions

1. Who regulates the internet?
2. Does the internet have a governing body?
3. What will happen if the internet does not have rules?
4. What is the internet's backbone?
5. What distinguished the internet as a neutral entity?

Sources

<http://websearch.about.com/od/whatistheinternet/a/internetrules.htm>

Chapter 20: Information Overload

By David M. Levy

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What is Information Overload?

Quote: “Information is the seed of an idea, and only grows when it is watered” – Heinz V. Bergen

Review

My understanding on the concept of Information overload is the state of a person or a group of people wherein they have difficulty of understanding the topic being talked about by having too much information processed all at once. As Information Technology professionals, in the case of using Microsoft PowerPoint during reports, we were thought by our IT professors to only put the general information on every slide while the explanations and other helpful information can be written down on a cue card. This practice develops our presentation skills because it practices us to not read from the slides to show the professor that we understand what we are presenting and in the part of the audience, they are not confronted by information overload. Information overload can affect your presentation because we, the people, can only understand around 7 items at a time wherein if exceeded, your audience will become lazy to listen.

Information overload happens when the person explaining or presenting experiences a lack of comparing and processing different kinds of information even though the information is unrelated. That person just wants to have something to say for the sake of saying or sharing information. Email is one of the major sources of experiencing information overload because incoming and instant messages come in at a rapid rate wherein the owner of the account cannot commit to checking email everyday and 24/7. People will never understand information overload even though they read the lengthy document multiple times because our human mind because of the capacity of our human mind.

Integrative questions

1. How can you control information overload?
2. What is the relation of information overload to information and computer ethics?
3. How can you adjust to different people when sharing information?
4. When will you know if the information is becoming overloaded to a person?
5. Why does information overload destroy an idea?

Sources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_overload#General_causes

Chapter 21: Email Spam

By Keith W. Miller and James H. Moor

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What is email spam?

Quote: “I'd rather send out a mass email than hang posters all over the place” – Todd Barry

Review

Junk mail or bulk mail as most computer users know when email spam comes up. This involves identical messages being sent to numerous recipients via email. Email is sent in bulk which creates email spam. Spammers, who engage in email spamming, are known as hackers because they have the desire to collect email addresses from chat rooms, websites, etc. in which spam messages will appear on your email account.

Some use email spamming as a business because they are able to sell email addresses to other spammers and they also have a way to search for a users email address. Email spamming is an unethical practice because it can interrupt the workflow of people as information overload and the privacy of people is being tampered. Email spamming is also a medium for fraudsters to scam users to enter personal information on fake websites because users will think that the information content of the website is real. Spam emails are also used by online stores like zazzle.com for advertising purposes.

The problem with spam messages is that when people see it on their email accounts, they would automatically send it to the trash because to them it is unnecessary email so those online stores using it as a means of advertising will not be able to attract many customers through email spamming. Spam messages are unethical because it limits the activity of users since their email accounts experience too much information overload to handle and keep track of on a daily basis.

Integrative questions

1. How does spam email affect productivity?
2. Why are spam emails sent?
3. How do I minimize spam emails?
4. How can I control spam emails?
5. Why are spam emails ethical?

Sources

<http://spam.abuse.net/overview/whatisspam.shtml>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-mail_spam

Chapter 22: The Matter of Plagiarism: What, Why, and If **By John Snapper**

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The real meaning of plagiarism

Quote: “Copying from one is plagiarism, copying from two, is research” – Wilson Mizner

Review

Originality is good and a great practice because you are formulating an idea by what you have learned from understanding and knowledge of a concept. When dealing with a similar matter, some people come up with different ideas and explanations but the output is the same while some form ideas and explanations by using other’s information and claiming that it is theirs. The first citation is ethical while the second citation is unethical. The second citation, using other’s information and claiming that it is yours can become ethical if you cite the source where you got it from because it shows that you have a similar idea but are unsure of how to formulate it.

According to Guy Debord, a French Marxist Theorist, “Ideas improve. The meaning of words participates in the improvement. Plagiarism is necessary. Progress implies it. It embraces an author’s phrase, makes use of his or her expressions, erases a false idea, and replaces it with the right idea”. Ideas improve when there is progress because when two or more people agree on something, the formation of the right idea occurs. One’s originality and perception of the idea relates to the other person’s originality and perception. Plagiarism becomes ethical when a person or a group of people borrow information from the original source and acknowledges the owner at the end.

People use other’s information as a source of influence or research and through there; they formulate their idea for clear and knowledgeable information while others do the opposite.

Integrative questions

1. What makes plagiarism useful in information building?
2. Why is plagiarism being questioned?
3. If plagiarism was uplifted, will originality of ideas still be the same?
4. Besides acknowledgement, what are other ways wherein we can avoid being sued by the owner?
5. When does plagiarism become a good practice?

Sources

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/plagiarism.html>

Chapter 23: Intellectual Property: Legal and Moral Challenges of Online File Sharing

By Richard A. Spinello

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: What are the legal and moral challenges of online file sharing?

Quote: “Property is intended to serve life, and no matter how much we surround it with rights and respect, it has no personal being” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Review

Intellectual property is a type of property wherein ideas are created and formed through gathered information and personal knowledge of a person’s mind. It is divided into two categories, industrial property and copyright. The industrial property part of intellectual property is composed of inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and geographic indications of source while the copyright part of it includes literary and artistic works such as music and photographs. In online file sharing, sharing intellectual property online resolves tensions between privacy and property interest.

Sharing intellectual property online also enables and raises the risk of plagiarism with unknown people that access your work unlike to those people whom you know because you understand and share a trust with them in sharing your work as reference. Personal or non-personal information that contains a copyright, has its owners and a license so in order to avoid from being sued, the borrower must either acknowledge or ask permission from the owner before using the information. Online users should have the freedom to create and share intellectual property on the web but the main decision is with them whether they will allow their own property from being shared based on their privacy standpoint. Having a copyright on your intellectual property gives users the permission to use, redistribute and change the content under the stated terms in which the owner and borrowed agreed upon.

As IT professionals, our design inspirations must be built around the standards on the web and pursue the best practices in an ethical environment.

Integrative questions

1. How do I maximize the use of my intellectual property?
2. How does online file-sharing help protect my property?
3. Is online file-sharing a good practice?
4. What can I do to stop unethical hackers from stealing my intellectual property?

Sources

<http://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/>

Chapter 24: Censorship and Access to Expression

By Kay Mathiesen

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: Problems with censorship.

Quote: “The first condition of progress is the removal of censorship.” – George Bernard Shaw

Review

What is censorship? Censorship is the control of information and ideas circulated within a society. What is access to expression? Access to expression is the state of people wherein they are given the freedom to express what they feel and voice out their concerns. Every society has had customs and laws regulated in their community and country because censorship has been around since ancient times. Not all censorship is equal nor does all arise from government or external force because people can exercise their human rights to stand up for the truth and for what is right.

Censorship and access to expression can be connected with each other because censorship is the state of limiting the access to an expression either by prohibiting the speaker from sharing information or the hearer from receiving information. Access to expression is valuable to us because it is part of our communication with other people. It is important because through expression, people understand the true feeling of another when voicing out concerns that are troubling him or her. Access to expression gives us a deeper understanding and allows us to leverage our beliefs, concerns and commitments to be able to satisfy our own informational interests.

The goal of having access to expression is the fact that two or more people are able to communicate with each other during a conversation. As stated above, censorship limits one's access to expression wherein it is a portion of expression which is being prohibited because of the belief that it will turn bad.

Integrative questions

1. What is censorship?
2. What is access to expression?
3. How is censorship and access to expression connected?
4. How is censorship ethical?
5. How is censorship unethical?

Sources

<http://gilc.org/speech/osistudy/censorship/index.html>

Chapter 25: The Gender Agenda in Computer Ethics

By Alison Adam

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: Gender agenda in computer ethics

Quote: “We need not just a new generation of leadership but a new gender of leadership”
– Bill Clinton

Review

Gender should be taken seriously in the development of computer ethics because information systems must cater to the needs of every person despite the race, gender, religion, etc. The internet allows everyone, regardless of social status, gender or ability to access information because every person is equal and should be able to access the same amount of information. Gender has always been an issue in the internet age and the world because there are people who think that men are better than women and that they are more capable of completing mostly any task compared to women. The internet today is focused on providing an open and common ground for men and women to promote the equality and the gender agenda in computer ethics because the internet’s governing body emphasizes equality among its users in having a quality time online.

Information and computer ethics treats every person equally because it values and focuses the importance of human rights wherein the concerns and recommendations of people are heard every time a matter is raised. There are times wherein computer ethics is somewhat conservative in its approach because it requires a conceptual foundation before it can be adapted and used. Women today are now engaging and taking up technical courses like information technology wherein they show men that they too can achieve something in the same course because of the demand and their interest to learn. According to researchers, women are more open to change because men started the computer age trend.

Integrative questions

1. What is the gender agenda in computer ethics?
2. How does gender matter in computer ethics in the internet age?
3. What are the gender differences in computer ethics among businesses?
4. How does gender relate to ethics?
5. What is feminist ethics?

Sources

<http://cpsr.org/prevsite/publications/newsletters/issues/2000/Winter2000/king.html/>

Chapter 26: The Digital Divide: A Perspective for the Future **By Maria Canellopoulou-Bottis and Kenneth Einar Himma**

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The perspective for the future

Quote: "An individually poor person is an isolated island by himself or herself. IT can end that isolation overnight." – Professor Muhammad Yunus

Review

The digital divide is the gap between people that can access digital information from those that are not capable of accessing the said information. We, the information technology professionals of the future, continue the trend of the past in changing the world with newer and more improved technology because we have more knowledge and resources than compared to those before to be able to shape the future that everyone dreams of. The problem with the concept of the digital divide is that people see technology as its problem while others see it as a solution for change. Technology must be used for the right situation because it was made with a purpose for use in making our lives easier to live in.

Information technology benefits the people of today and the future because it empowers them to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative and productive in living and in work which is why information technology is a huge necessity in the world. One advantage of information technology is that it focuses and develops the potential of people that do not know and didn't think that they can learn to use information technology. It caters to their need and focuses on the person's capabilities because each one has a different way and perspective of learning.

The main cause of the digital divide is having the lack of computers and information technology because what is happening is that some professionals only prefer to teach those that are knowledgeable.

Integrative questions

1. What is the digital divide?
2. What are IT professionals thinking for the future?
3. Are we expecting a change to come?
4. Is it time to address the lack of information technology in some areas of society?
5. How can we the perspective for the future through digital divide?

Sources

http://www.changingthepresent.org/technology_and_digital_divide/quotes

Chapter 27: Intercultural Information Ethics

By Rafael Capurro

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1297778476&sr=8-1

What I expect to learn: The perspective of intercultural information ethics.

Quote: “The internet will become a wasteland without computer ethics” – Chas Andres

Review

The author, Rafael Capurro, in this article takes a look back about the cultural aspects of information ethics that have occurred. Our past, present and future has been shaped by information technology wherein the vast improvements and mass developments of information technology in our society has taken the lead in assuring that we experience a more productive lifestyle. This chapter reflects on how the internet is changing local cultural values and the traditional ways of life because people have been dependent and tends to refer to the internet when in need of information. It also reflects on how the changes are affecting the future of society through information technology wherein the future generation will benefit from what the past generation has inherited to them in terms of technology.

The impact of information technology to society and its future has been great and the future generation can expect good things coming their way because it has changed the way people think and act with the application of technology into our lives. The problem with intercultural information ethics is the thought if different lifestyles and projects can coexist with one another because they will need to have a common goal and agreement before engaging on the matter. Information technology already has a great history to cherish because it has brought so much improvement and success on how we confront different situations in life today. The main goal of intercultural information ethics is to address local and global issues in a society and its lifestyle.

Integrative questions

1. What is intercultural information ethics?
2. What is the foundation of information ethics?
3. What is the difference of information ethics between cultures?
4. What is the importance of having intercultural information ethics?
5. What are the practical aspects of information ethics?

Sources

<http://www.capurro.de/iie.html>

Sources

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