Technology is involved in almost every aspect of a human’s life, whether it is finding a perfect route to get to a destination or making online payments to purchase merchandises. Computing professionals work on developing and maintaining technologies. It is important for them to act ethically and acknowledge the consequences of their work. Ethics in the context of computing professionals, in this case computer engineers, should be studied by professionals, students, practitioners or anyone else who is working in this field. While developing or maintaining any technology, issues that occur should be solved with the consideration of ethical principles. Professionals should have conscience of what is morally right and wrong. They should be able to take in consideration of ethical principles while taking any actions. A computing professional’s work could have great impact whether on a small or large group of people. It is crucial for professionals to minimize any negative impact that could occur and be responsible for their work and actions.

One of the most pressing ethical and moral issues facing computer engineers in my opinion is the ‘Privacy’ issue. Information can spread throughout the cyber world really fast. Misuse of an individual’s or group’s information and invasion of privacy to cause harm are well-known cybercrimes. In the present world, data plays an important role as a useful resource. Organizations analyze data to come up with business strategies to approach clients or to help find solutions to solve problems. However, an individual or group has right on the privacy of their information. It is crucial that private information or data should be hidden and not approachable by any unauthorized people or group. Moreover, an individual or group should be in consent and awareness that their data has been obtained for a certain use. One of the general ethical principles of the ACM code of ethics and professional conduct states that “A computing professional should respect privacy”. Computer engineers should have knowledge about the forms of privacy, privacy rights and should act ethically. They should also be responsible and not violate any privacy rights.

An ethical and moral issue that I am interested in is the ‘Discrimination’ issue. Discrimination occurs when a person or a group of people are treated unequally or unjustly. A general ethical principle of the ACM code of ethics and professional conduct specifies that “A computing professional should be fair and take action not to discriminate”. Computer engineers should take the discrimination issue in account while developing any new technology or while taking decisions to solve other issues. The reason that I am interested in this issue is because discrimination has been a worldwide issue that is frequently addressed about. People have increased their awareness in order to act against any type of discrimination that occurs. There can be several levels of discrimination to take into consideration such as racial discrimination, gender discrimination, age discrimination and etc. Matters can get sensitive and complicated. Discrimination can sometimes occur unintentionally that is why it is important for computer engineers to study the issue and think carefully before taking any actions. Computer engineers need to have enough knowledge to recognize the actions that might cause discrimination. They need to be aware that their actions don’t oppress an individual or group even if it is unintentionally done and they should be able to use ethical and moral principles to solve the issue.

The ‘Public awareness and understanding of technologies and their consequences’ is another interesting issue because technology has become easily accessible over time. The wide use of technology has made it important for not only the developers but the users also to have awareness and understanding of computing technologies. As stated in one of the professional responsibilities of the ACM code of ethics and professional conduct, “A computing professional should foster public awareness and understanding of computing, related technologies, and their consequences”. Computer engineers should communicate distinctly with the public to share technical knowledge of the technologies, address important issues, raise awareness about the consequences and clarify any inaccurate or misleading information.