

Association for Computing Machinery Report

Assignment 1

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The general principles of Association for Computing Machinery (Association of Computer Machinery) consist of 7 principles that talk about fundamental ethical considerations. Most of the principles that were listed mention ethical, privacy, and social justice issues that computing professionals should avoid. These seven principles provide an introduction of guidelines and responsibilities that could help computing professionals succeed in their workplace and make ethically reasonable decisions.

The first general principle of ACM is about contributing to society and addresses social justice and ethical issues. Nobody would want any advice from a bad professional, so every computing professional should use their skills to benefit and help society. Every computing professional is part of a huge system that makes people's lives better every day and makes sure that there are no negative consequences. Every human being has a right to be safe not only physically, but socially as well, so computing professionals using their skills should provide and prioritize it. There are a lot of things in the world that was created by engineers and computer professionals together. All the things they create are for the public's comfort and their quality of life. People deserve to use new technology in the safest way that would benefit their lives.

The second general principle of the ACM is "Avoid harm" and it addresses ethical issues. This principle explains that computing professionals should always avoid harmful actions (intended and unintended) by using the best practices and by considering any potential impacts on those who are affected. If there is any chance of harm (for example, systems risk), computing professionals should report the potential risk.

The third general principle of the ACM is "Be honest and trustworthy" and it addresses ethical issues. Computing professionals should always act in an honest way when they work with data, clients or their co-workers. Those professionals should not do anything they are not

authorized to do or misrepresent their company's policies or procedure. One of the most important parts when computing professionals work with privacy is to keep it confidential, treat it in a respectful way and follow the privacy laws.

The forth general principle of the ACM is “Be fair and take actions not to discriminate” and it addresses social justice. We live in a country with people from all the different cultures, with many differences in religious beliefs, personal opinions, and languages. Computing professionals should not be biased towards age, color, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender identity, labor union membership, military status, nationality, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Since the information and technology is one big part of everyone's lives, there is a possibility of discrimination, harassment and bullying, that could affect people's lives. It should be a priority for computing professionals to create technologies that are reasonably accessible to all people.

The fifth general principle of the ACM is “Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts” and this principle addresses ethical issue. Computing professionals are problem solvers and creators, they invest values into society. However, there are other professionals who create something that computing professionals should respect and recognize. No matter if it's another computing professional or a professional from any other field, their work should be protected from being stolen. Computer professionals should not use anyone's work without permission. It is a little bit different for computer professionals because they don't go and copy texts, they mostly used codes that other people created. In order to do it right those lines of code should be used under creator's permission.

The sixth general principle of the ACM is “Respect privacy” and it addresses privacy issue. Computing professionals work with a lot of private data and they should treat it with respect. Personal information should be used in professional settings without violating the rights of the

clients (or anyone whose information is used). Computing professionals should strictly follow the policy working with confidential information and avoid accidental disclosure. Personal information should be protected, corrected where needed and collected in a minimum amount.

The seventh general principle of the ACM is “Honor confidentiality” and it addresses privacy and ethical issues. Since computing professionals work with a big amount of confidential information, they should protect that information unless it violates the law. All the confidential information should be appropriately stored and secured. Since internet and e-mail could be intercepted, computing professionals should be aware of it and be careful with transmission of the sensitive information. This principle is under privacy and ethical issue because confidential information can be private, and to manage the confidential information in the right way computing professionals should act ethically.

### References

The Code affirms an obligation of computing professionals to use their skills for the benefit of society. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>