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Code of Ethics Comparison

The IEEE and ACM codes of ethics are very similar in purpose general construct but there are some very noticeable differences. The most obvious of which is the size. The ACM CoE is almost ten times longer than its IEEE counterpart. The ACM CoE says that we have a responsibility not only to do no harm but to also use our abilities to help people, unlike the IEEE which only talks of doing no harm. On the other side of the same coin however, the IEEE CoE does mention not harming people more than once in arguably more tactful means than the ACM CoE, further emphasizing its importance. Personally I think one the potential reasons for such differences, especially the length and the ACM's CoE being so much more comprehensive in details, is that their respective organizations are serving different communities. Generally speaking ethics would ideally be a globally agreed upon concept, but in reality that's hardly ever the case. IEEE is generally serving engineers, which Computer Scientists are not a part of. All licensed engineers are required to not only be formally taught ethics, but be tested on it too. This isn't always the case in Computer Science. I think this may be one of the reasons the ACM CoE goes on to explain their ethic clauses in a way the IEEE doesn't.