**ethical issue related to the software**

In a programming forum where students and lecturers will be able to ask/answer questions relating to programming, there would still be problems of ethical issues in the forum. These ethical issues will influence how the users in the forum are going to use the forum. Even though these ethical issues are not being strictly monitored or implemented, it is to everyone’s benefits that it does. These ethics are how we see as moral standards when we use computers.

Privacy Concerns

In the world we are living in right now, privacy is viewed as the most important ethical issue we have when it comes to moral standards that govern over the use of computers. In my ideal version of the forum, users will have the option of anonymity when it comes to them wanting to ask, view or answer a question. In terms of unlawful or unauthorised intrusion of the system or malicious software that intruded, there are precaution and measures we can take to counter act these attempts to impair the system or network. The software should also implement data protection to safe guard data of our users and discourage hackers from trying to use the data for other purposes. And with these counter measures for protecting the privacy and data of the users, our forum will be a safe haven for all programmers to chat and answer or ask questions about programming without having to worry about their data being stolen or their identity exposed.

Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights can be quite tricky to track with how all the users of the forum may have the same idea of how to ask or answer a certain question if the questions have a specific answer to it. Another form of this would be plagiarism, a user from the forum may or may not be aware that he or she is plagiarising, again depending on the question at hand.

In addition to that, I would have a software license which would make me the original copyright owner, so the users of the forum will be granted licenses to use the materials in the forum based on the agreement that was agreed upon. This would in turn avoid cracking from users in attempt to bypass the registration and authentication steps when entering the forum.

Effects on Society

In the forum, the users will be discussing about programming, that includes the programming languages, asking and answering programming questions and helping other programmers with their codes. That’s what programming forums are for, helping other users to be in touch with other programmers online, in turn aids in the development of future programmers. I’ll list an example, a junior programmer would be hard stuck on a programming error in his/her system, but with this forum he/she will be able to have other programmers to help her with her problem. However, this forum can be a double-edged sword. You can have programming elitists coming into the forum who will harass and belittle anyone who aren’t able to solve their programming error. Which will in turn discourage any up-and-coming programmers to ask any sort of questions on the forum in fear of getting insulted online. However, with proper care and time, this programming forum will blossom into something other programmers will cherish, affecting them well into their careers working in the programming industry.