

## Professional Ethics in Computing: Seminar 3

### **Step 1.**

As a group, we will read through the BCS Code of Conduct. [10 minutes]

### **Step 2. Individual work** [10 minutes]

Read the scenario on the next page. Reflect individually about it. Summarize the relation between the scenario and Code of Conduct. Each student will produce a one slide presentation outlining their ideas.

### **Step 3. Team work** [20 minutes]

Conduct a deliberative ethical discussion as a group to decide whether Ping's decisions were right or not. Identify which part of the Code of Conduct are applicable. Summarize the relation between the scenario and the Code of Conduct. Draw together individual members' slides to make a team presentation (3-4 slides).

### **Step 4. Submit slides to Moodle** (unassessed).

Submit file as "Team<n>\_seminar3.pptx" or ".pdf".

### **Step 5. Presentations** [20 minutes]

Three groups are selected to present their conclusions (5 minutes each), followed by discussion.

## **Scenario: Ping and her Boss**

Ping has joined a software company ApricotCode as a graduate programmer. She has been working on a project for client company Whizz Engineering for one year. Requirement specifications were completed some time ago and the software development team are close to completing the implementation.

At this stage, Whizz Engineering review the software and decide that they need an additional software feature. This new feature was not in the original requirements specification, so Ping's boss, Naz, who is project leader at the software company, tells Whizz Engineering that it will cost them an additional \$100,000 to include this new feature.

However, Ping knows that the feature that Whizz Engineering is requesting is actually already available as part of a package that was imported into the software as part of the prior development stage. This feature just needs to be activated and a few simple tests performed. It would be quite easy to do. Ping explains this to Naz, but he is annoyed and dismisses her idea as unlikely to work. Ping, who works closely with the package, is confident she is right and feels that Naz does not have the relevant programming skills with the package that she has and does not really understand its capabilities.

Later, in a meeting between Whizz Engineering and the software company, at which Ping attends, Naz is asked to justify the \$100,000 cost. Naz says the new feature will require 3 months of additional programming by 3 software developers and 1 month testing by 2 testers. Whizz Engineering agree to this and a contract is signed.

Ping is uncomfortable at the meeting, because she knows the work required does not need to be that great. But she feels her first commitment is to her employer, the software company, and so does not say anything more or take any further action.