

Professional Ethics in Computing – Seminar 8

Trust, Safety and Reliability

In today's seminar you will investigate computer failure related to a real world case. You should work individually, but may talk together to share ideas.

Step 1. Read the report you have been given. Form an intuitive view of what happened. (approx. 20 minutes)

Step 2. Answer the following questions (approx. 20 minutes):

1. What kind of computer failure was involved in this case?
2. Analyse the responsibilities of the computer programmers using Birsch's three criteria.
3. What, if anything, could have been done to prevent the incidents?
4. Who, if anyone, should take moral responsibility?
5. Who, if anyone, should take legal responsibility?

Step 3. Sum up in a short report or presentation slides. (approx. 10 minutes).