

# CTT010

## Professional ethics

Lê Thị Nhàn  
[ltghan@fit.hcmus.edu.vn](mailto:ltghan@fit.hcmus.edu.vn)



KHOA CÔNG NGHỆ THÔNG TIN  
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC KHOA HỌC TỰ NHIÊN

# Content

- ☐ Opening example
- ☐ Social contract
- ☐ Code of ethics
- ☐ Professional ethics
- ☐ Discussion
- ☐ Fair use

# Discussion

- ☐ Why must we learn professional ethics?
- ☐ What will happen without professional ethics?
- ☐ How to determine if an action is right / wrong?



Brainstorm  
Session

# Opening example

## □ Litter

- Suppose that society achieves a "no litter" contract.
- If a person is littering, he/she is breaking the contract.
- Thus, only 1 person breaks the contract, the society is unstable
  - This contract is built by many people, it has been based on social consensus

# Social contract

- Social contract
  - ▣ Collaboration is necessary and can only happen when people agree to follow certain rules.
- Therefore, a code of ethics are established and agreed upon by everyone in society

# Code of ethics

- ☐ Establishing a code of ethics to govern rules among citizens.
- ☐ The government must ensure that these rules are enforced.
- ☐ Code
  - ☐ Standard set

# A situation

- Vietnam joined the 1886 Bern Convention on industrial property protection.
- Intellectual property law passed by the National Assembly of Vietnam in 2005 regulates intellectual property rights, copyright, industrial property rights ....
- However, why is the situation of non-copyright software disk and operating system sales still rampant?

# Professional ethics

- Some people in a career field set some ethical standards.
- They are also called Professional Ethics or Professional Working Ethics.



# Professional ethics

- Three basic standards related to IT
  - (1) Copy / Cheating
  - (2) Plagiarism
  - (3) Compliance with licenses

# Professional ethics

- Three basic standards related to IT
  - (1) Copy / Cheating
    - Source code
    - Copy each other's source code.
  - (2) Plagiarism
    - Report
  - (3) Compliance with licenses
    - Open sources
    - Do not allow commercial or redistributed

# Discussion

- ☐ The main goal of moral doctrines is to answer the question "is an action right / wrong?"



# Act utilitarianism

- ☐ Remarking benefits / harms
- ☐ An action is right if it benefits people and is wrong if it harms people.
- ☐ An action is right / wrong if it increases / decreases the benefit of the affected party.

# Example

- ☐ Lining up in the elevator
- ☐ Is this action right?
  - ☐ What is the benefit of this action?
  - ☐ Is this action harmful?

# Example

- ☐ Lining up in the elevator
- ☐ Is this action right?
  - ☐ What is the benefit of this action?
    - No mess, easy access, fairness
  - ☐ Is this action harmful?
    - Long lines, people who are in a hurry will be late
    - Some people's interests will be affected

# Act utilitarianism

- ☐ Put all the benefits and damages on the scale.
- ☐ If the scale is skewed to benefits, it means the action is right, even if it affects others.
  - ☒ The great benefit that it brings can help to ignore the damage



# Discussion

- ☐ An action that is wrong for some people but is true for more people is considered morally right.
- ☐ Indicate situations in which an action that benefits many people and disadvantages the minority may be considered right/wrong in IT?



# Discussion

- ☐ Online games bring works and profits but also harm young people's morality
- ☐ Websites share source codes to help programmers but also make programmers lazy to copy the code
  - ☐ Students copy source code and submit it to the teacher

# Discussion

- ☐ You must release the product tomorrow but there is still a big and rare bug.
- ☐ This bug takes 1 week to fix.
- ☐ Two solutions:
  - ☐ Silent and release
  - ☐ Delay → You will be deducted from wages
- ☐ Which solution do you choose? Why?

# Fair use

- ☐ (1) Purpose
- ☐ (2) Quantity
- ☐ (3) Current business affect
- ☐ (4) Nature of work

# Fair use

- ☐ (1) Purpose
  - ☐ Personal & educational
- ☐ (2) Quantity
  - ☐ 30% photocopy, restrict access (using password, ...)
- ☐ (3) Current business affect
  - ☐ Using older editions
- ☐ (4) Nature of work
  - ☐ Non-fiction: mathematics, science, general knowledge

# Discussion

- ☐ Are the following actions fair use?
  - ☐ Teachers provide ebooks and hard copies for students
  - ☐ Teachers provide Visual Studio software with crack for students

# Thinking

- ☐ Why must we follow professional ethics?
- ☐ Why must we change ourselves to do the right thing while the world is still unchanged ?

# Last words

"Whatever you don't like,  
don't do it to others"

# References

- Mike Quinn, **Ethics for the Information Age**, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition





