

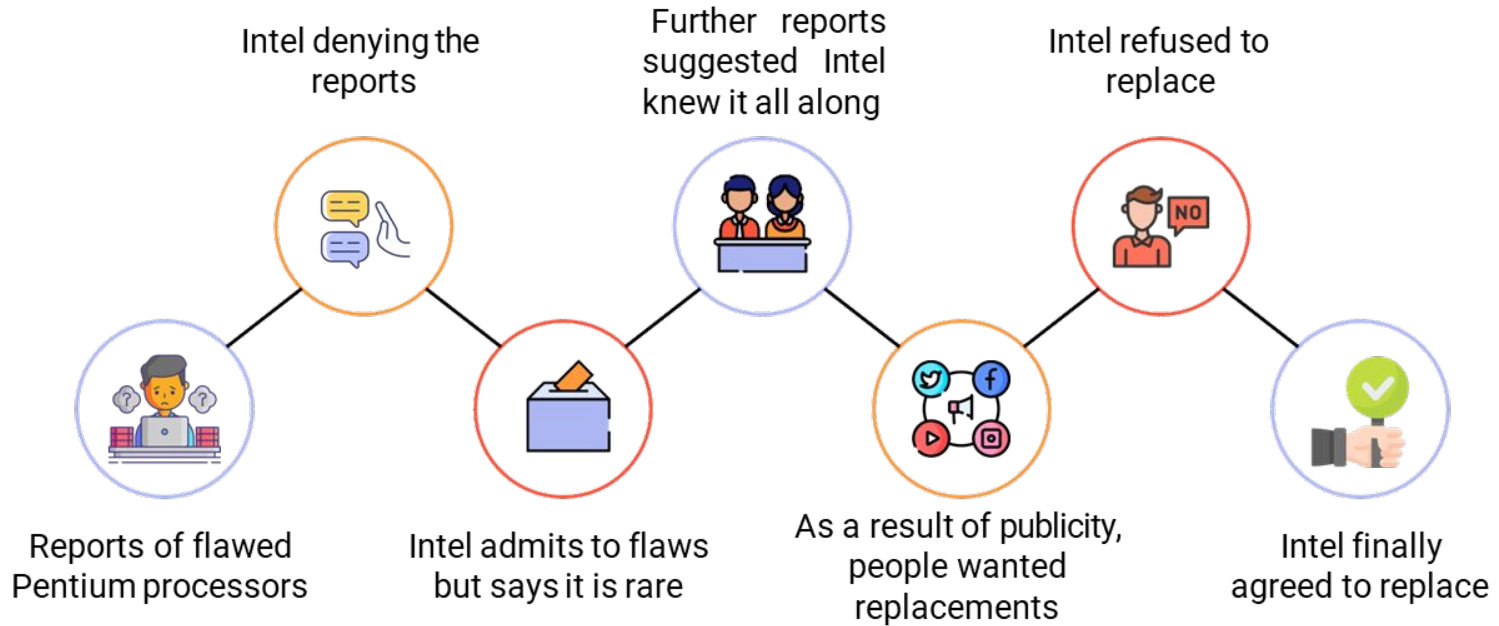
HUM 4441

# Engineering Ethics

**Code of Ethics**

# Case Study

## Story of Intel



Was this ethical from Intel?

# What is Code of **Ethics**?

- A **framework** for ethical judgment for a professional.
- Codes serve as a **starting point** for ethical decision making.
- Ethical codes do not establish **new** ethical principles.

A code of ethics **is not** a legal document. One can't be arrested for violating its provisions, although expulsion from the professional society might result from code violations.

# How does a code of ethics help?

Create an environment within a profession where ethical behavior is the norm.

A guide or reminder of how to act in specific situations.

Provide backup for an individual who is being pressured by a superior to behave unethically.

Helps the individual to be a strictly professional person with the organization

# Objections to code

If code of ethics is so good, why doesn't every engineer follow it?

Not member of  
professional  
societies

Lack of  
awareness

Can create  
internal  
conflict  
without any  
resolution  
guideline.

# The 2 codes of ethics

	IEEE	NSPE
Length	Short; deals with generalities	Long and detailed
Coverage	Covers only the basics	Covers all the details
Readability	Understandable	Unlikely to be thoroughly read
Example	Does not mention duty to employer	Section I.4 of NSPE mentions duty to employer

# Resolving internal conflicts in codes

Employer orders an engineer to implement a design that the engineer feels will be unsafe.

## NSPE Clause

**I.4** Engineers have duty towards employers so should go with the design.

**I.1** Safety of the public is paramount

There is a **hierarchy** within the code.

**Safety** will take precedence.

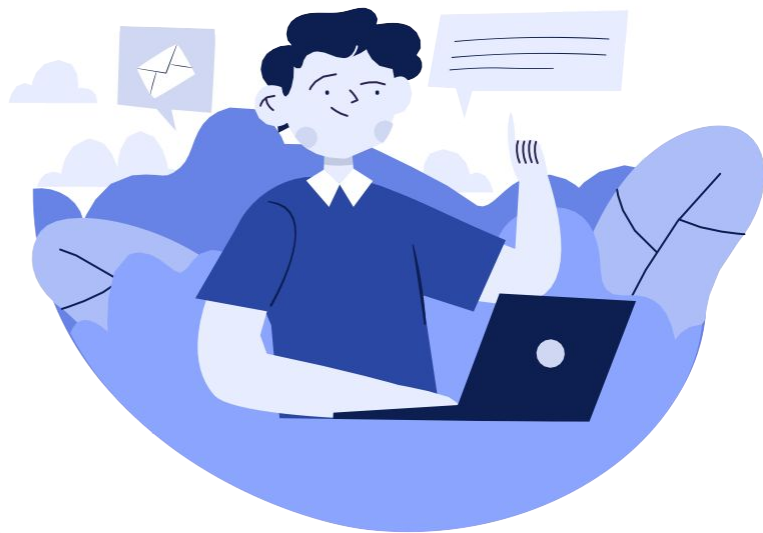
**Not all cases of conflicts can be resolved as hierarchy is not always mentioned.**

# Can Codes and Professional Societies Protect Employees?

Three employees from *Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)* were fired when they pointed out deficiencies in one of the system.

Later they sued BART using the IEEE code of ethics.





# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?