

CTT010

Professional ethics

Lê Thị Nhàn
ltndan@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 August 2015 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, Moodle...)
- ☐ (3) Current business affect
 - ☐ Using older editions
- ☐ (4) Nature of work
 - ☐ Non-fiction: mathematics, science, general knowledge

Discussion

- Are the following actions fair use?
 - Sony integrates a program recorder into television.
 - 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**, 4th Edition



