As you develop web applications, can you assure the ethical and moral use of your work? Why or why not? Review your classmates' answers and offer your input.

There are different sources of ethical “codes” for a software developer to follow. I don’t believe they completely prevent unethical use of software, but they may help keep unethical use to a minimum. Humans are flawed. Even when we try our best to design and follow a code of ethics to ensure moral use, there always seems to be loopholes that unethical people discover and make use of. I suppose that means there is no real way to completely prevent your software from being used unethically. However, similar to cybersecurity measures, certain preventative measures could perhaps prevent a great deal of unethical use. Even if loopholes are found in contracts and business statements- or even ethical codes- expressly stating that the data stored in the application’s database can’t be used to target individuals for advertising, for example, might prevent a good amount of immoral use.

Professor,

The mere fact that multifactor authentication already has been bypassed really says a lot about how fast hackers learn. I thought the technology was still pretty new. It makes me wonder how they managed to find away around this security measure seeing as how it typically requires an alternate device, email, or phone. I would think there would be some kind of encryption going on. How do they manage to obtain the security code? Or do they find ways to skip that step entirely?

Scott,

Keeping track of the latest hacking methods is a great way to prevent a lot of security breaches. I’m sure that reading blogs and articles like that are likely a part of some software development jobs as well. Sometimes, the issue isn’t even hackers though. Some companies tend to do some unethical things, such as selling user data. In that case, I would think that good contracts and other official documents may prevent much of that from happening- or at least lift the blame or guilt from the shoulders of the developers if the company does breech their agreement.

Dioukou,

I do like what you said about personal growth. It relates to what the professor said about bad guys always working to find new ways to hack into secure systems. If a developer doesn’t keep up with any personal growth, they probably won’t ever learn anything new. The thing about software development- or any STEM career in general is that it is a career that requires constant learning. Software and programming languages are constantly on the move. Even in some of these classes, I’ve dealt with certain things that were outdated or replaced and had to research what similar feature has replaced that old feature. Programming is definitely the kind of job or hobby for an individual that loves to learn and grow. It’s not for the kind of person that assumes learning ends along with school.

Jess,

From a biblical- and even a secular perspective, humans truly are nowhere near perfect. We never will be. Software is always meant to be used by people and as it’s programmed by people as well there is no way to prevent human error- technologically speaking or morally speaking. I guess you could say that the only way to entirely prevent immoral use of a software is to remove free will entirely. In this respect, we can kind of sympathize with God in a way.