CSE 308

Ethics
Privacy and Codes of Conduct

Software Engineering Code

▌ Code of Ethics and Professional Practices

▌ ACM/IEEE-CS

Software engineers shall commit themselves to making the analysis, specification, design, development, testing and maintenance of software a beneficial and respected profession. In accordance with their commitment to the health, safety and welfare of the public, software engineers shall adhere to 8 principles (next slide)

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Eight Principles ...

- **Public** – Software engineers shall act consistently with the public interest.
- **Client and Employer** – Software engineers shall act in a manner that is in the best interests of their client and employer, consistent with the public interest.
- **Product** – Software engineers shall ensure that their products and related modifications meet the highest professional standards possible.
- **Judgment** – Software engineers shall maintain integrity and independence in their professional judgment.

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... Eight Principles

- **Management** – Software engineering managers and leaders shall subscribe to and promote an ethical approach to the management of software development and maintenance
- **Profession** – Software engineers shall advance the integrity and reputation of the profession consistent with public interest
- **Colleagues** – Software engineers shall be fair to and supportive of their colleagues
- **Self** – Software engineers shall participate in lifelong learning regarding the practice of their profession and shall promote an ethical approach to the practice of the profession

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Personal Principles

- Never steal data for personal gain
- Never distribute or sell proprietary information obtained as a part of your work on a software project
- Never maliciously destroy or modify another person's programs, files, or data
- Never violate the privacy of an individual, a group, or an organization
- Never hack into a system for sport or profit
- Never create or promulgate a computer virus or worm
- Never use computing technology to facilitate discrimination or harassment

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Case Study

- Trial of Sergey Aleynikov – $400K/yr software developer for Goldman Sachs
  - Tried for theft of SW, convicted (8 years sentence), then eventually set free
  - SW – part of a 60M LOC system
  - Goldman typically downloaded open source code, then relabeled it as Goldman Sachs proprietary
  - Serge was offered $1M+/yr by a new trading firm
  - Mailed himself code he was working on (open source + proprietary)
- What are the ethical issues?

Source: Flash Boys by Michael Lewis

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Accepting Offers ...

▌ Stony Brook Policy

▐ I understand that if I receive an offer, I may continue interviewing with other employers <u>before verbal or written acceptance</u> of another offer.

▐ I acknowledge that once <u>I accept</u> an offer verbally or in writing, I am making a formal commitment to uphold my hiring obligation to that employer. There are virtually no circumstances (with the exception of a personal or family tragedy) that would legitimize reneging on an offer.

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... Accepting Offers ...

▌ Stony Brook Policy

▐ I understand that <u>continuing to interview after the acceptance of an offer</u> is ethically wrong, and that I will discontinue my job search and interviewing once a decision has been made to honor my obligation.

▐ I understand that reneging on an offer will result in permanent termination from ZebraNet and that I am required to meet with a Career Center Staff member.

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... Accepting Offers

- **Stony Brook Policy**
  - I agree to report my hiring status, by reporting my new position through ZebraNet's "Report A Job/Internship" section.
  - I agree that I am held accountable to all above policies regardless of the source in which I found my job/internship (ZebraNet or ANY external resources including but not limited to: job listing sites, employer websites, personal/professional referrals)

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Privacy

- **Industry guidelines**
  - Medical
  - Banking
- **Professional guidelines**
  - Software engineering
  - ACM and IEEE position on certification
- **Legal framework**
  - State (e.g., California)
  - Federal (e.g., Sarbanes-Oxley)

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Issues

- Who knows Stony Brook's privacy policy
- Who has seen Stony Brook's privacy policy

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