Code of Ethics Draft #1

I.   Introduction

This code is based on the viewpoint of me as a software engineer and as an individual. Major influences come from both my education in humanity and art, and my parent who studies liberal arts. Also, part of my former education that does not really respect individualism serves as a negative example when making these canons.

In the personal and social parts of the code, individualism, or the independence of an individual, always lies at the center. This is probably because of my experience of others seeing me with stereotypes that treat people as indistinguishable group members. The interest of the nation is never a concern for me, either. Basically because I tend to line myself up with the diasporic ideology.

As for the professional part, I do not really buy the business ethics of software engineering (a.k.a. commercial programming stuffs). Instead, I'm heavily concerned about how technology could reach out to benefit more people in the world. Therefore, if comparing to the codes of ethics in Week 3 Reflection, one may find my personal code of ethics more similar to the medical code than to the engineering code.

II.   Canons

1. Personal

① **Keep in mind my own identity**: who I am, what made me my current self, and where I am heading to. (This is to recognize my own existence so that I have the foundation to talk about everything else.)

2. Professional

① **Always ask for the context of a job before doing it**: where it comes from, why it is important, and what is expected to get from it. (This is to recognize the nature of my profession.)

② **Technology is there for social welfare first and only**. There can be no job against the interest of the public.

③ **Respect the employer/client, but strictly under the limit of the above two canons**. (That means, I have to carry out my responsibilities and provide the service as an engineer, but never should act against my own ethical standard.)

3. Social/Interpersonal

① **Never judge a person** (by "judge" I mean making an assessment about a person's value or quality). Get to know him/her instead and respect the way s/he exists.

② **Never try to interfere with a person's decision-making**, let the decision be a physical action, an argument, or something else. Instead, make suggestions and provide support only when asked and mutually agreed.

③ **Never give up my own personality and decision**, either, just in symmetry of the above two canons.

④ **Keep a sober awareness of human rights**. When needed, fight for what is under threat. The phrase "human rights" here means the rights declared in United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.