

WHY ETHICS?

Technology advances faster than ethical values, morals and especially laws

Discussion between relevant parties needed, ethicists, professionals, 'intelligentsia', organisation representatives, politicians, media, 'normal' people, etc.

Law and morals do not always meet

MOTIVATION

Vacuum of rules

- Rules of the field derived from old rules, there aren't any rules or they aren't followed

Conceptual muddles

- Is a program a service, means of production, idea or a presentation of an idea?

Social use environment

- ICT artefacts are seldom private affairs anymore

NEW QUESTIONS?

New area, old questions or new area with new questions?

Does the medium bring new ethical questions to bear?

Is there something fundamentally different about ICT compared to other things?



ETHICS, APPLIED ETHICS AND MORALS

Ethics is the study of morals

Morals are the (right or good) habits which people have in a society (lat. *mores*)

Applied ethics tries to clarify the questions of ethics/morals so that they can be discussed

- Professional ethics within a field

Ethics have been and are still used to formulate policies in societies

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THE AIM(S) OF ETHICS

The good of the people

- To understand what it would be – meta ethics
- To build a system(s) to solve how to get there
- To apply the system(s) to actual questions coherently and consistently
- To aid us in our moral problems and to give descriptions of what ethical positions people hold

SOME ETHICAL THEORIES (AND THEIR APPLICATIONS)

Virtue ethics (Aristoteles, MacIntyre, others)

- Moral character of a person → professional ethics?
- Ethics of friendship – online?
- Telos (an ultimate aim or object), the meaning of life

Utilitarianism or Consequentialism (Mill, Bentham)

- The greatest amount of good for (the greatest amount of) people

SOME ETHICAL THEORIES (AND THEIR APPLICATIONS)

Deontology, duty ethics (Kant, Rawls)

- We have duties to others
- Never treat another person *merely* as means, but always as an end in themselves
- Universal moral law
- Voluntary action

Rights based theories (Locke, Rawls)

- Classic Liberalism, Libertarianism
- Communitarianism, Socialism, Social Democracy

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SOCIAL MEDIA: EXAMPLES OF ISSUES IN

Privacy

Property

Teaching

Friendship

Etc.

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