# IT and Values
# Lectures

`https://github.com/hylkev/ethiek-en-recht-bullet-points`

April, 2014

# 1 First Lecture : Intro into Ethics

**Ethics** is that branch of philosophy investigating issues of "the good"

**Metaethics** is the attempt to judge ethical theories

**Normative ethics** attempts to derive standards of rightness or wrongness

## Virtue Ethics

**Plato : cardinal virtues:** wisdom, courage, temperance, justice

**Other virtues:** fortitude, generosity, self-respect, good temper, sincerity

**Vices:** cowardice, insensibility, injustice, vanity

**Aristotle:** virtues are means between extreme character traits (excess/mean/deficiency)

**Thomas Aquinas : Christian virtues:** faith, hope, charity

## Deontology (From Greek: δέον = duty)

**Duty theories** base morality on specific, foundational principles of duty

**Samuel Pufendorf** classified duties under three headings:

- Duties to God
    - know the existence and nature of God
    - worship God
- Duties to Oneself
    - duties of the soul (skills, talents, ...)
    - duties to the body
- Duties to Others
    - Absolute duties (avoid wronging, treat as equals, promote the good)
    - Conditional duties (contracts between people)

**John Locke: rights theory:** The laws of nature mandate that we should not harm anyone's life, health, liberty or possessions

**Natural rights** are

> **Natural:** not invented or created by governments
>
> **Universal:** do not change from country to country
>
> **Equal:** same for all people, regardless of gender, race or handicap
>
> **Inalienable:** one cannot hand over rights to another person

**Immanuel Kant: categorical imperative:** mandates an action, *regardless of desires*

**``Treat people as an end, and never as a means to an end''**

**``Act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time will that it would become a universal law''**

## Consequentialism

**Good conduct** is determined solely by a cost-benefit analysis of an action's consequences.

**Teleological** theories

> **Ethical Egoism:** consequences are more favourable to me
>
> **Ethical Altruism:** consequences are more favourable to everyone except me
>
> **Utilitarianism:** consequences increase overall happiness

**Hedonistic utilitarianism:** pleasure and pain are the only consequences that matter

**Jeremy Bentham : act-utilitarianism:** tally the consequences of each action we perform

**John Stuart Mill:** place certain pleasures above others
intellectual pleasures > bodily pleasures

**Rule-utilitarianism:** morality of adoption of rules

## 2   Second Lecture : Cybercrime

**Some criminal acts are facilitated by ICT. Others are only possible because the technology exists.**

**Crime:** some act + intentional state made explicitly forbidden by law

**Kevin Mitnick:** Hacking

**Fraud:** wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

**Computer Fraud:** dishonest misrepresentation, let another do or refrain from doing something which causes loss.

- Altering, destroying, suppressing or stealing output
- Altering or deleting stored data

- Altering or misusing existing system tools or software packages
- Altering or writing code for fraudulent purposes

**Espionage:** Markus Hess / Lawrence Berkley Laboratories

**Espionage or spying** involves a government or individual obtaining information considered secret or confidential without the permission of the holder of the information

**Speech / Expression** involves

**Obscenity:** Child pornography, locally obscene materials

**Harassment:** Directed at specific individuals or groups

**Threats:** intimidation with implication of harm

## Property

**Goods:** Theft

**Ideas:** Intellectual Property

## Cyber Terrorism / Other

Anonymous, Kim Dotcom, Edward Snowden, Silk Road, Bitcoin

# 3   Third Lecture : Value Sensitive Design

**Empirical Research** forms the middle ground between **Subjective** and **Objective** theories

**Prudential-Empirical Ethics of Technology**

- empirical findings that *suggest* what kinds of experiences and activities *tend to* increase subjective well-being
- critical evaluation of validity and causal relationships
- translate into concrete technological features
- minimise negative side-effects

**Ed Diener's Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS)** measures life-satisfaction

- Overall life satisfaction
- Real-time pings

**Positive Psychology:** The scientific study of what constitutes subjective well-being and how it can be enhanced
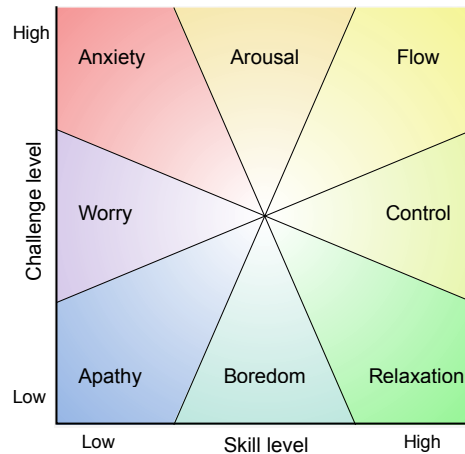
**Flow**  Transformation of time



Figure 1: Flow

**Absolute wealth vs relative wealth**

**Being social and belonging to a community**  is a strong determinant

**Sensory pleasure**  is strongest when the brain accomplishes a difficult task unexpectedly

**User Interface**  must allow for users at cognitive and autonomous stages

**The ideal user interface**  continuously co-adapts to user in such a way that an expert's usage will in practice be incomprehensible to novice

**Online altruism**  can be entirely illusory, giving well-being benefit without actually doing anything good for the world (**Slacktivism**)

# 4   Fourth Lecture : Privacy and ICT

**Privacy**  is the right to be left alone

**Privacy**  is the right to control what others know about you

**Forms of privacy:**

- Personal
- Territorial
- Communications
- Informational

**Openness and transparency:**  there should be no secret record keeping

**Individual participation:**  the subject of a record should be able to see and correct the record

**Collection limitation:** data collection should be proportional

**Data quality:** data should be relevant to the purpose

**Use limitation:** Data should only be used for their specific purpose by authorized personnel

**Reasonable security:** Adequate security safeguards

**Accountability:** Record keepers must be accountable for compliance with these principles

**Convenience:** free flow of information $\leftrightarrow$ personal risks

**Communitarian:** give up privacy for the greater good

**Egalitarian:** everybody has access to the same information ``transparent society"

**Hoffman** (1980):

- the right to determine what information to share
- the right to know what is being collected
- the right to access data

**Westin** classes people into three distinct groups:

- fundamentalists alsways choose privacy
- unconcerned individuals are willing to forego most privacy claims in exchange for service benefits
- pragmatists weigh the benefits of services against the degree of personal information sought

# 5 Fifth Lecture

# 6 Sixth Lecture : Democracy and ICT

The nature of the medium of ICT is inherently linked to maximal freedom.
Ideas vs artifacts
"Expression"
Copyright vs Patent

# 7 Seventh Lecture