Professional Ethics and Practices

1. Describe the ethical, social and legal issues related to information systems development and operation.

The major ethical, social and political issues raised by information systems include the following moral dimensions:

1. Information rights and obligations

This means, what information rights do individuals and organizations posses with respect to information about themselves? What can they protect? What obligations do individuals and organizations have concerning this information?

1. Property rights and obligations

How will traditional intellectual property rights be protected in a digital society in which tracing and accounting for ownership are difficult and ignoring such property rights is so easy?

1. Accountability and control

Who can and will be held accountable and liable for the harm done to individual and collective information and property rights?

1. System quality

What standards of data and system quality should we demand to protect individual rights and the safety of society?

1. Quality of life

What values should be preserved in an information and knowledge-based society? Which institutions should we protect from violation? Which cultural values and practices are supported by the new information technology?

1. Describe the code of conduct within Information Systems and highlight functions of code of conduct to a profession.

A code of conduct defines how a company’s employees should act on a day today basis. The code of conduct within Information Systems are:

* No one should enter or use another’s computer system, software, or data files without permission. One must always have appropriate approval before using system resources, including communication ports, file space, other system peripherals, and computer time.
* Designing or implementing systems that deliberately or inadvertently demean individuals or groups is ethically unacceptable.
* Organizational leaders are responsible for ensuring that computer systems enhance, not degrade, the quality of working life. When implementing a computer system, organizations must consider the personal and professional development, physical safety, and human dignity of all workers. Appropriate human-computer ergonomic standards should be considered in system design and in the workplace.

The functions of code of conduct to a profession include:

A well-written code of conduct clarifies an organization's mission, values and principles, linking them with standards of professional conduct. The code articulates the values the organization wishes to foster in leaders and employees and, in doing so, defines desired behavior. As a result, written codes of conduct or ethics can become benchmarks against which individual and organizational performance can be measured.

Also, a code is a central guide and reference for employees to support day-to-day decision making. A code encourages discussions of ethics and compliance, empowering employees to handle ethical dilemmas they encounter in everyday work. It can also serve as a valuable reference, helping employees locate relevant documents, services and other resources related to ethics within the organization

Externally, a code also serves several purposes such as:

Compliance: Legislation (i.e., the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002) requires individuals serving on boards and organizational leaders of public companies to implement codes or clearly explain why they have not.

Marketing: A code serves as a public statement of what the company stands for and its commitment to high standards and right conduct.

Risk Mitigation: Organizations with codes of ethics, and who follow other defined steps in the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Federal Sentencing Guidelines, can reduce the financial risks associated with government fines for ethical misconduct by demonstrating they have made a "good faith effort" to prevent illegal acts.

1. Explain the ethics and professional conduct with reference to: ACM, IEEE and BCS
2. With reference to IEEE

I. To uphold the highest standards of integrity, responsible behavior, and ethical conduct in professional activities.

1. to hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, to strive to comply with ethical design and sustainable development practices, to protect the privacy of others, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;

2. to improve the understanding by individuals and society of the capabilities and societal implications of conventional and emerging technologies, including intelligent systems;

3. to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;

4. to avoid unlawful conduct in professional activities, and to reject bribery in all its forms;

5. to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data, and to credit properly the contributions of others;

6. to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;

II. To treat all persons fairly and with respect, to not engage in harassment or discrimination, and to avoid injuring others.

7. to treat all persons fairly and with respect, and to not engage in discrimination based on characteristics such as race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

8. to not engage in harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment or bullying behavior;

9. to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious actions, rumors or any other verbal or physical abuses;

III. To strive to ensure this code is upheld by colleagues and co-workers.

10. to support colleagues and co-workers in following this code of ethics, to strive to ensure the code is upheld, and to not retaliate against individuals reporting a violation.

1. With reference to BCS
2. You make IT for everyone.

Working together to address issues in your profession and in wider society, you want everyone to have access to IT. You share what you know, uphold standards and conduct yourself professionally and fairly at all times.

**PUBLIC INTEREST**

You shall:

1. have due regard for public health, privacy, security and wellbeing of others and the environment;
2. have due regard for the legitimate rights of third parties;
3. conduct your professional activities without discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, color, race, ethnic origin, religion, age or disability, or of any other condition or requirement;
4. promote equal access to the benefits of IT and seek to promote the inclusion of all sectors in society wherever opportunities arise
5. Show what you know, learn what you don’t.

You have integrity and show competence, but you know you don’t know everything, that’s why you continuously learn and grow and never take on tasks that you don’t have the skills and resources to complete.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY

You shall:

only undertake to do work or provide a service that is within your professional competence;

NOT claim any level of competence that you do not possess;

develop your professional knowledge, skills and competence on a continuing basis, maintaining awareness of technological developments, procedures, and standards that are relevant to your field;

ensure that you have the knowledge and understanding of legislation and that you comply with such legislation, in carrying out your professional responsibilities;

respect and value alternative viewpoints and seek, accept and offer honest criticisms of work;

avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious or negligent action or inaction;

reject and will not make any offer of bribery or unethical inducement

1. Respect the organization or individual you work for.

You work with due care and diligence, acting in your client or company’s best interests at all times. You take personal and collective responsibility for your actions while maintaining discretion and ethical standards.

DUTY TO RELEVANT AUTHORITY

You shall:

carry out your professional responsibilities with due care and diligence in accordance with the relevant authority’s requirements while exercising your professional judgement at all times;

seek to avoid any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest between you and your relevant authority;

accept professional responsibility for your work and for the work of colleagues who are defined in a given context as working under your supervision;

NOT disclose or authorize to be disclosed, or use for personal gain or to benefit a third party, confidential information except with the permission of your relevant authority, or as required by legislation;

NOT misrepresent or withhold information on the performance of products, systems or services (unless lawfully bound by a duty of confidentiality not to disclose such information), or take advantage of the lack of relevant knowledge or inexperience of others.

1. Keep IT real. Keep IT professional. Pass IT on.

As a BCS member, you’re an ambassador for the IT industry and use your voice to help promote it positively to the world. You support your IT colleagues and other members in their growth both personally and professionally.

DUTY TO THE PROFESSION

You shall:

accept your personal duty to uphold the reputation of the profession and not take any action which could bring the profession into disrepute;

seek to improve professional standards through participation in their development, use and enforcement;

uphold the reputation and good standing of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT;

act with integrity and respect in your professional relationships with all members of BCS and with members of other professions with whom you work in a professional capacity;

encourage and support fellow members in their professional development

1. With reference to ACM

GENERAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES.

* A computing professional should...
* Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders
* in computing.
* Avoid harm.
* Be honest and trustworthy.
* Be fair and take action not to discriminate.
* Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts.
* Respect privacy.
* Honor confidentiality.