Facebook University Internship Application 2017

**How to Apply**

1. Upload a PDF copy of your Resume
2. Upload a PDF copy (unofficial is ok) of your High School Transcripts
3. Upload a PDF copy (unofficial is ok) of your College Transcripts
4. Upload a PDF copy of your response to the Essay Question

**"How should software engineers think about the ethical impact of their work?"**

**-**not always up to you to fix (hard to see big picture with small pieces)

-when creating apps, or hopefully know ultimate goal

-not something that breaks the law (opening iPhone)

-if you see something that’s clearly unethical don’t do it obviously

-it is complicated (not everyone will agree)

-think about possible consequences either way (and think about users) (empathy is important)

-implications, how used

-don’t do things just because you can  
--get the least amount of information that you can

-Facebook clarifies privacy settings now

-there is no black and white

-start thinking about ethics in design (brainstorming)

-learn critical thinking

-do you only need to ethically consider what people can do with your programs?

--not exploiting information you have (sensitive)

--AI

-gray areas (ads, data mining, data to customize)

-allegory/thought experiment

public boolean decide(boolean ethical){

if(ethical){

do();

return true;

} else{

return false;

}

}

Oh, if only it were that simple. Understanding the ethical implications of a program is complicated. With many aspects of a problem to consider, it is not always clear whether a solution is helpful or harmful. Ethics is not black and white. However, it is possible for software engineers to take steps to make ethical decisions.

This process begins with design. Before software is even created, a software engineer should think about possible effects of their work. For example, one might write a program to get into one’s phone if one forgets one’s password, but someone else might use this same software to break into other people’s phones. One might then decide that it would be unethical to publish this software. Software engineers should weigh the real life benefits for their users with the capacity to harm and then make the best judgment call that they can. It is especially important to use empathy, logic and critical thinking in their analysis.

In fact, even those involved after the initial design can and should still consider how their part will be used in the larger framework of the software. Using the same process of analysis, they can evaluate how their code may possibly affect individuals, the community, the environment, etc.

It is important for software engineers to think about the bigger picture when they’re coding. They might just think about what they intend for the code, but other people could use it for different purposes. This is especially pertinent if the software engineer created this code as open source.

Ethical impact is often hard to judge. Hindsight is 20-20 after all, but it can be hard to predict exactly what can come of any given action or creation. While software engineers should take precautions to avoid dangers, we shouldn’t be so cautious as to refrain from innovation just because someone might abuse our work. If we take the time to think critically and carefully about how we can affect other people, if we use our empathy for our fellow humans to try to help rather than harm, we can create great innovations that can bring us closer together.