Social, Ethical & Professional Issues in Computer Science

CSCI 3101: Reading Assignment 2

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1. Re-read Chapter 15* "The foundationalist debate in computer ethics"
   Provide one reason why Tavani thinks that Computer Ethics qualifies as a legitimate field of
   Applied Ethics.

Travani does not believe Computer Ethics requires unique ethical issues or a unique ethical

theory to justify being a field of Applied Ethics. He also points out that the view of Professional

Approach of Computer Ethics is less likely in modern times, because computer professionals are

outnumbered as todays computer users. An example is given showing similarities between what should

or should not fall into Medical Ethics and Computer Ethics; neither a crime committed with the aid of

computers nor a crime committed with a doctors tool should fall into the realm of either of the

Professional Ethics. He suggests that Himma's Epistemological Thesis: "CE presents problems that

cannot adequately be analogized with other fields of applied ethics." is not entirely true nor must it be

for Computer Ethics to qualify as a legitimate field. Travini points out that it is unclear yet if Floridi's

Information Ethics methodological/macro-ethical framework is required for Computer Ethics, yet

agrees that there could be cases for which a more concrete framework for Computer Ethics framework

would be required.