

A summary post into to the discussion in Unit 1 based on my initial post and the feedback from peers

by [Alex Mutebe](#) - Wednesday, 15 May 2024, 8:36 AM

The British Computer Society (BCS) and the Association for computer Machinery (ACM), two well-known organizations, have improved the standards of conduct and ethics for computer professionals. The regulations encompass a wide range of scenarios that affect IT professionals from a legal and social perspective (Adelstein et al., 2016). For example, the ACM Code of Conduct emphasizes contributions to society and human well-being, avoiding harm to others, honesty, fairness, respect for intellectual property, privacy, and confidentiality while the BCS Code of Conduct comprises key principles that include making IT accessible for everyone, showing competence and continuous learning, respecting the organization or individual one works for, and maintaining professionalism and ethical behavior (ACM, 2018; BCS,2022).

Establishing quality control procedures is necessary for businesses to ensure that the employees are cognizant of the constantly changing ethical standards. Moreover, it should be noted that following the ethical code of conduct is not enough to mitigate legal and social issues. In some cases, as discussed in the case study of Abusive Workplace, using a combination of different guidelines can be a remedy to overcoming oversights during professional conduct (Joy 2024; Maria, 2024).

Furthermore, Mittelstadt (2019) states that the future of technology professionals' codes of conduct raises worries, according to (2019), especially the lack of strong legal and professional accountability frameworks. In the case study of Malware Disruption, Hainadine (2024) makes the point that national laws should be supplemented by global standards and codes of

conduct when examining the degree to which the ACM and BCS code of conduct influence decision-making.

In Uganda, the computer misuse act (2011) takes precedence over the internationally recognized regulations and ethical codes of conduct. In this case the key difference is that Uganda's Act is a binding legal instrument with legal consequences, while the BCS Code of Conduct is a professional guideline that dictates the ethical behavior expected of its members. The Act is enforceable by law in Uganda, whereas the BCS Code is enforceable by the society itself within its membership.

In conclusion, O'Regan & O'Regan (2018) suggest a multifaceted approach that includes educational initiatives, mandatory compliance, disciplinary measures for code violations, ongoing updates to the codes, and public awareness campaigns to highlight professional standards in order to promote adherence to ACM and BCS guidelines among IT professionals. These strategies aim to cultivate a consistent ethical practice within the IT profession.

References:

Adelstein, J. and Clegg, S., 2016. Code of ethics: A stratified vehicle for compliance. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 138, pp.53-66.

BCS. (2022). CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BCS MEMBERS. Available from <https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf> [Accessed 13 May 2024].

ACM (2018). ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. [online] Association for Computing Machinery. Available from: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> [Accessed 02 May 2024].

Joy, N. (2024) Collaborative Discussion 1: Abusive Workplace Behaviour. Available from: <https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=228501> [Accessed 14 May 2024].

Maria, I. (2024) Collaborative Discussion 1: Abusive Workplace Behaviour. Available from: <https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=228501&parent=414165> [Accessed 14 May 2024].

Hainadine, C. (2024) Collaborative Discussion 1: Malware Disruption. Available from: <https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=228186> [Accessed 14 May 2024].

The Republic of Uganda, (2011). THE COMPUTER MISUSE ACT, 2011. Available from: <https://ict.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/UGANDA-Computer-Misuse-Act-No.-2-of-2011-1.pdf> [Accessed 14 May 2024].

Mittelstadt, B., 2019. Principles alone cannot guarantee ethical AI. *Nature machine intelligence*, 1(11), pp.501-507.

O'Regan, G. and O'Regan, G., 2018. Ethics and Professional Responsibility. *World of Computing: A Primer Companion for the Digital Age*, pp.281-291.