

# CSSE 498 – Senior Project Individual Activity

## Essays on Ethics

### Objective

This is an individual assignment for you to reflect on what you have learned about ethics in computing over the past three years at Rose. Please read the case study overview, the two scenarios provided below, and respond to the associated questions.

### Case Study Overview

The scenarios described below reflect a hypothetical senior project being developed by CSSE students at Rose-Hulman. Company X has plans to develop a new web site to sell their product. Your senior project team has been tasked with the responsibility of developing this new e-commerce site. One of the requirements states that any and all communication with the database be fully encrypted. You have also signed an agreement with the client turning over all intellectual property to the client and have signed a form that states, "any and all code to be written by your team will be the property of the client and that the code does not bear any resemblance to any code released under an open source license or available freely on the internet".

### Due Date

11:55 p.m., Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### Tasks

1. Please read the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (Version 5.2 recommended by the ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Task Force on Software Engineering Ethics and Professional Practices and jointly approved by the ACM and the IEEE-CS as the standard for teaching and practicing software engineering) – the full version is at URL <http://www.acm.org/about/se-code>.
2. Please read **Scenario No. 1**: Your senior project team is behind schedule and decides to implement the logging feature of the system in a very simplistic manner - all log messages are sent to the database in plain text. Some members of your team rationalize this decision by stating that "log messages do not contain anything of value and it is okay if we do not secure this communication". You have personal reservations about this decision, and express it during a team meeting. The team overrules your objection and requests that you not notify the senior project instructor and the client as it may cause the team to miss the delivery deadline and significantly impact the team's senior project grade.

**Question:** What should you do? Make your case using the code of ethics as outlined in Task 1.

3. Please read **Scenario No. 2**: Your team runs into a tricky problem while designing the transaction processing engine of the e-commerce site. You notice a similar question has been posed on Stack Overflow and a response to the questions include a sample algorithm and code that fits your specific problem.

**Question:** Can you use this piece of code as a part of your final product? Make your case using the code of ethics as outlined in Task 1 or relevant case law.

### Submitting Your Work

Please submit your assignment as a single document to the Angel [Dropbox for Essay on Ethics](#) on Angel under “../Lessons/Dropbox for Essay on Ethics”.

Please submit a **pdf** file containing your Name, Assignment Title, Date, and your responses to the two scenarios above. Please name the document:

<your last name>-*EthicsEssay.pdf*  
(e.g., *Bohner-EthicsEssay.pdf*).