COMPUTER ETHICS

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INTRODUCTION

- Ethics is a set of moral principles that govern the behavior of a group or individual.

- likewise, computer ethics is set of moral principles that regulate the use of computers.

Computer Ethics

Common issues of computer ethics

Some common issues of computer ethics include intellectual property rights such as copyrighted electronic content, privacy concerns, and how computers affect society.

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For example, while it is easy to duplicate copyrighted electronic or digital content, computer ethics would suggest that it is wrong to do so without the author's approval.

And while it may be possible to access someone's personal information on a computer system, computer ethics would advise that such an action is unethical.

INTELLECTUAL

You have certainly heard the word property before: it is generally used to mean a possession, or more specifically, something to which the owner has legal rights.

You might have also encountered the phrase intellectual property. This term has become more commonplace during the past few years, especially in the context of computer ethics. But what exactly does it refer to?

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Intellectual property refers to creations of the intellect (hence, the name): inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols, names, images, and designs used in commerce are a part of it.

Intellectual property is usually divided into two branches, namely *industrial property* which broadly speaking protects inventions and *copyright*, which protects literary and artistic works.

CATEGORISING INTELLECTUAL PROPERY

- Intellectual property is divided into two categories:
- *Industrial property*, which includes inventions (patents), trademarks, industrial designs, commercial names, designations and geographic indications (location specific brands) etc.
- *Copyright*, which includes literary and artistic works such as novels, poems and plays, films, musical works, artistic works such as drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures, and architectural designs.

Copy rights

Copyright is a legal concept, enacted by most governments, giving the creator of an original work exclusive rights to it, usually for a limited time.

History of copy right

Copyright came about with the invention of the printing press and with wider public literacy. As a legal concept, its origins in Britain were from a reaction to printers' monopolies at the beginning of the 18th century. Charles II of England was concerned by the unregulated copying of books and passed the Licensing of the Press Act 1662 by Act of Parliament.

COPYRIGHT
Ⓒ
sampling
sharing
copying
CRIMINAL

WHAT IT CAN PROTECT AND WHAT NOT

In summary, copyright laws protect intellectual property which includes literary and artistic works such as novels, poems and plays, films, musical works, artistic works such as drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures, and architectural designs.

But unlike protection of inventions, copyright law protects only the form of expressions of ideas, not the ideas themselves.

Remember that a created work is considered protected as soon as it exists, and a public register of copyright protected work is not necessary.

COPY RIGHT ON INTERNET

➢ But what of works made available to the public on the Internet? Are they at all protected by copyright? Once again, yes! For works made available over a communications network (such as the Internet), the copyright protects original authorship.

➢ But, according to the Copyright Law, it does not protect ideas, procedures, systems, or methods of operation. This means that once such an online work has been made public, nothing in the copyright laws prevents others from developing another work based on similar principles, or ideas.

NETIQUTTES

Netiquette are about the the various risks related to using the Internet.

It is about proper ways in which to use a network and to determine whether information is reliable, while emphasizing four important points given in next slides.

REAL PEPOLE EXIST BEHIND THE COMPUTERS

- You are dealing with people, not machines. So think twice before you click on Send button in the mail/chat window
- You are not the only one using the network
- Keep these other people in mind when you say something on a network.

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

➢ Just as you would in the real world, be aware of risks, fraud and false information which exists on the Internet. Use common sense when deciding whether information is valid. Don't trust or spread further any information about which you are in doubt. Always try to obtain reliable information.

➢ Protect your personal information to keep someone from using it in an unethical way. (For example, when you enter a prize contest, your name, address, and phone number may be given to a dealer of personal information.)

AVOID SPAMMING

➤ Spamming is sending unsolicited bulk and/or commercial messages over the Internet.

➤ Spamming is morally bad if it is intended to destroy and done by infringing on the right of privacy of others.

➤ It could be good if the message sent benefits the recipients, like giving out warnings or useful information to others.

NO SPAM
TODAY
TOMORROW
EVER

HELP MAKING NETWORK BETTER

The existence of the information society is based on give and take. Making a contribution is an essential part of being a good network user. For example, if you make a request and find the information you receive helpful, write a summary and report what you learned , publish it on the Net or give links to others.

SOFTWARE PRIVACY

➢ Software piracy is morally bad when someone reproduces a copy of the software and sells it for profit, produces exactly the same or similar version without giving proper credit to the original author, or simply produces it and distributes it to others.

➢ It is not immoral to copy the software if someone who has a licensed copy of the software and simply makes a backup copy of the original. One back-up copy of the commercial software can be made, but the back-up copy cannot be used except when the original package fails or is destroyed.

CREATION OF WORMS AND COMPUTER VIRUS

➢ Creation of worms and computer viruses is morally bad when it is intended for malicious purposes like to steal information or destroying of data.

➢ However, it could be used like a vaccine – poison to kill another poison – to cure or prevent a potentially destructive system from wreaking havoc in the network. The way some worms and viruses work could be used to gather information that could help protect the majority of computer users.

PLAGIARISM

➤ Plagiarism is copying someone else's work and then passing it off as one's own. It is morally bad because it is an act of stealing.

➤ Copying programs written by other programmers and claiming it as your own could be an act of plagiarism. It involves lying, cheating, theft, and dishonesty.

FILE PRIVACY

Any computer document produced either by an individual in his private home or in his office should remain private. No one has should open any document unless authorized by the individual who created the file himself.

Computer ethical hacking

An ethical hacker is usually employed by an organization who trusts him or her to attempt to penetrate networks and/or computer systems, using the same methods as a hacker, for the purpose of finding and fixing computer security vulnerabilities. Unauthorized hacking (i.e., gaining access to computer systems without prior authorization from the owner) is a crime in most countries, but penetration testing done by request of the owner of the victim system or network is not.

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A Certified Ethical Hacker has obtained a certification in how to look for the weaknesses and vulnerabilities in target systems and uses the same knowledge and tools as a hacker.

CONCLUSION

As technology advances, computers continue to have a greater impact on society. Therefore, computer ethics promotes the discussion of how much influence computers should have in areas such as artificial intelligence and human communication. As the world of computers evolves, computer ethics continues to create ethical standards that address new issues raised by new technologies.