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Ethics Essay

Having a Code of Ethics in engineering is extremely important. It serves as a framework for decision-making to ensure engineers can be trusted and counted on. When faced with an ethical dilemma, there needs to be something that can be cited to help resolve the issue in a way that is ethical and fair. When I make a decision, I base it off my how it will affect others in addition to my own personal morals. Things I ask myself are: Why am I doing this? Who will benefit? Am I just taking the easy way out?

In class, we discussed the IEEE Code of Ethics which is a list of obligations that electrical engineers take. They include, accepting responsibility, being honest, rejecting bribery, putting safety first, and more. These all align with my own considerations. None of them come as a surprise to me and all make sense.

We also discussed a case study relating to the Virtue of Ethics. I reviewed a case where police requested audio recordings taken from an Amazon Echo speaker to serve as evidence for a crime, but Amazon denied their request as it would be an invasion of their customer's privacy to give up such a recording. This relates to the virtues of integrity, honesty, and charity. Amazon showed integrity and honesty by not denying their customer's right to privacy, and charity by putting their customers first and protecting their privacy when they easily could have done the opposite. The other virtues that are less relevant to this case are fidelity, responsibility, and self-

discipline because it is not a case of Amazon being faithful to themselves or taking and sort of responsibility for something going wrong.

In conclusion, the IEEE Code of Ethics exists to protect the public, excel the electrical engineering industry forward, and serve as a guide when faced with an ethical dilemma.