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CS 371

Assignment 4

As requirements in the workplace become more and more demanding each year, so do the professional codes that apply to each different kind of job. Professional codes are not something that should be pushed to the wayside and forgotten about. In the textbook, Gotterbarn believes professional codes can be broken down into three major groups: codes of ethics, codes of conduct, and codes of practice (Tavani, p. 109).

Gotterbarn "describes the codes of ethics as "aspirational,"" meaning they are basic guidelines that should be followed in order to complete job specific goals and objectives (Tavani, p. 109). Breaking the codes of ethics would at most result in a light form of punishment, like a slap on the wrist (Tavani, p. 109). According to Gotterbarn, the codes of conduct "address the professional and the professional's attitude and behavior" (Tavani, p. 109). Violating the codes of conduct may result in "warnings given to an individual to the possibility of exclusion from practicing in a profession" (Tavani, p. 109-110). Lastly, Gotterbarn states the "codes of practice relate to operational activities within a profession" (Tavani, p. 109). Violating the codes of practice encompasses the previous punishments while tacking on legal actions as well (Tavani, p. 110). While it's important to follow each of the three different types of codes, it's obvious that some are more serious then others and if broken, will severely impact the person breaking them.

The realm of professional codes and ethics has faced many criticisms over the years and most likely always will. I believe Gotterbarn was able to combat some criticisms by splitting professional codes into three sub groups; however, many criticisms are still valid. A major criticism given by Michael Davis is that professional codes "are often perceived as "self-serving, unrealistic, inconsistent, mere guides for novices, too vague, or unnecessary"" (Tavani, p. 108). The major take away from his statement is codes being too vague. Gotterbarn's three sub groups are still pretty vague with no real world examples. An individual's actions could easily be misinterpreted and placed in to codes of conduct when it really should have fallen into the codes of ethics. Another criticism given by John Ladd is he "believes that attaching disciplinary procedures and sanctions to codes effectively turns them into legal rules or "authoritative rules of conduct" rather than ethical rules (Tavani, p. 109). Gotterbarn fueled that criticism even more by stating the different kinds of punishments involved with breaking each different type of code. I think the majority of the criticisms given in the text aren't combatted by Gotterbarn but more by the SECEPP rules later in the chapter.

**References**
Tavani, H. (2013). *Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing.* Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.