ACM Code of Ethics and BCS Code of Conduct takeaways

After reading several posts from classmates about the importance of ethics as codified by the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery, 2018) and BCS (BCS, 2022), I noticed three key themes:

1. **Safeguarding Against Bad Practice**

   Posts analyzing the "Malware Disruption" case (I read posts about this by Haris, Samuel, and Mario) all highlighted how the code provided crucial ethical boundaries that were violated by Rogue Services. The company's prioritization of profit over public safety directly contradicted multiple ACM principles (1.1, 1.2, 2.8, 3.1) in a way where compliance could have avoided harm. Though, as Samuel notes, Rogue's actions weren't illegal in their own jurisdiction despite the ACM code clearly highlighting their ethical failures.

2. **Professional Accountability**

   Tala's analysis of workplace abuse showed how the code translates ethical ideals into actionable standards. Principles 1.1 (safe environments) and 1.5 (honesty) provided clear metrics to measure Max's abusive behavior and Jean's managerial failures. The comparison with BCS standards further reinforces how ACM's specificity helps in breaking down the complicated dynamics of tech workplaces.

3. **Benchmark for Ethical Development**

   The medical implant case that Simbisio wrote about presented the code as a northstar for engineers. The Corazon team's adherence to principles like 1.6-1.7

(privacy) and 2.4-2.5 (transparency) served as an example of how the code of ethics can guide responsible innovation. This contrasts sharply with the malware cases, suggesting the code's effectiveness depends on organizational willingness to implement it meaningfully (including individual buy in).

References

Association for Computing Machinery (2018). *ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*. [online] Association for Computing Machinery. Available at: https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics.

BCS (2022). *BCS Code of Conduct | BCS*. [online] www.bcs.org. Available at: https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct/.