Working groups address software engineering ethics and practices

The Joint Task Force on Software Engineering Ethics and Professional Practices, established recently by the Computer Society and the Association for Computing Machinery, has formed eight working groups to document and codify standards of ethical and professional practices for software engineers.

Because software design, development, and application often transcend national boundaries, the standards are intended to document the consensus of the global software engineering community; therefore, volunteer participation of individuals throughout the world is sought. Where consensus is not apparent, it is intended that these standards document various recommended practices and guidelines.

The working groups and their chairs are as follows: institutional support, Michael McFarland; intellectual property, Suzanne Weisband; professional competence, Donald Gotterbarn; professional relationships, Joyce Currie Little; privacy, Patrick Sullivan; reliability and safety, Keith Miller; security, Bob Melford; and social justice, Suzanne Weisband.

For information on the individual groups or on how to participate, contact Robert J. Melford, Computer Society cochair for the task force, at r.melford@computer.org.