

It is paramount to have a code of ethics in the field of engineering. Day to day engineers are faced with decisions regarding their work. Whether it be a design aspect, a cost adjustment, the use of a different part or tool, etc., each decision comes with implications. It is of the utmost importance for each individual and organization to grasp the impact of each decision. Having a code of ethics provides guidelines upon which to frame these decisions. There is rarely a clear, concise answer to an ethical question, but having a code allows for consistent unequivocal intentions to be set.

Personally, I like to imagine what people would think if they saw it as a headline in tomorrow's newspaper when considering an ethical issue. I focus on whether I would be perceived as honest, responsible, and having fidelity. I find it more important to uphold my own personal character than to uphold the success of a project should it be weighing on the decision. If people had to attempt to understand where I was coming from, as opposed to agree that I had made a righteous decision I would not feel I had made the right move.

I had the opportunity to discuss the current hot button topic of the Amazon Alexa. For Alexa's voice control to be functioning it must always be listening and processing audio data. This arises the issue that something that is unwanted to be heard could be recorded and processed. However, along with that comes the possibility that something that wasn't intended to be heard could be used for good (i.e. the prevention of a domestic abuse). I am of the thought that personal privacy is more important than the off chance that something good can come from constant surveillance. While I understand the possible good that can come from this, there are other measures in place to protect the public from the sort of threats that this could prevent. This side I feel has the most focus on honesty, integrity, and responsibility. This is because it is placing a paragraph in a rarely read terms and conditions statement that most consumers will not read could be perceived as suspect.