

Ethics play a significant role in our world and engineering, especially in my field of Computer Engineering. Adhering to ethical codes provides a structured baseline for evaluating situations, and informed decision-making. Additionally, having a code of ethics as a reference serves as a valuable reminder and reinforcement of ethical values over time. Information privacy is a large part of my discipline; many ethical laws apply to information security. In my discipline, I have an ethical obligation to protect people by protecting their personal information. This applies professionally by collecting data in an unbiased way, using all data collected, and following the ethical codes and laws that have been put in place. When I am faced with an ethical decision, I always look at what rules or laws have been put in place that relate to my situation, and if not, I think about what implications my decision may have on others and choose to do what I think is the right thing to do.

We discussed many situations as a group; each had an instance where someone had violated one of the IEEE Codes of Ethics, and the public was negatively affected. I focused on the situation where Volkswagen (VW) had equipped over 11 million vehicles with software designed to manipulate emissions tests. Upon being discovered, they were compelled to confess to their actions. The severity of the repercussions they faced could have been mitigated due to a conflict of interest involving a committee member who had ties with VW and should not have been involved in the decision-making process. The first principle of the IEEE Code of Ethics describes the responsibility to prioritize the safety, health, and welfare of the public and the environment. The second principle describes the importance of avoiding conflicts of interest whenever feasible, and the third is to avoid injuring others by false or malicious action. These principles were breached when a committee member failed to recuse themselves during the evaluation of Volkswagen due to his historical ties to the company to maintain his image. VW intentionally endangered the public and the environment while concealing its actions and lying about emissions to maximize profits. The other IEEE codes aren't as relevant to this case because this case is more large scale while the other codes are more small-scale or about discrimination, which don't apply to the situation.