

Lab: Why/How the SE Code Applies to Firesheep

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1 How the SE Code Applies

The Code defines software engineers as “those who contribute by direct participation to the...design, development...of software systems” [?]. Did Eric Butler contribute by “direct participation” to the design of some “software system”?

Firesheep is the name of software written in the C++ programming language that wraps existing packet sniffing software (Wireshark) in an easy to use, one-click GUI extension for the Firefox browser [?]. Firesheep is a software system directly written by Eric Butler, maintained on his open source GitHub account [?]. Eric Butler (the software engineer) has therefore contributed by direct participation (programming himself) in the design of a “software system” (Firesheep) [?].

Since he contributed by “direct participation” to “the design” of a “software system,” Eric Butler is considered a “software engineer” under the ACM Code of Ethics, and shall appropriately adhere to said Code [?].