

- Write a one-page summary of a current topic concerning Ethical CS.

Article used:

Ethical Problems in Computing

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 | By Lou Berzai

<https://www.comptia.org/blog/ethical-problems-in-computing>

This article does not focus on one topic, but it touches upon a variety of ethical considerations in computing. It discusses the areas where ethical problems in computing are mostly found: "computer crime, responsibility for computer failure, protection of computer property, records and software, and privacy". For example: Is copying software really stealing? Should it be less enforced than crimes with human victims?

Since people that commit computer crimes must be very intelligent people, and the punishment is usually to "give what you stole back" or being fired, does the law deter the perpetrator from getting hired from another competitor company, making him a prize instead of a criminal?

And if the stolen goods are company secrets, who committed the crime: the company that is paying for the information stolen or the perpetrator? Who should pay for this crime?

Another issue references privacy. The amount of data that computers can access, organize and analyze about one individual is immense. The way this information is used is not always clear. Once information is "out", who does it belong to? And is this information being used fairly? How can the need for information and the need of the individual be balanced?

The article also talks about how much power IT professionals have, even if not realized. For instance, they could decide that an information is public (because it is "out there") but ethically they should assume every information is private unless told otherwise. What are the consequences for taking the unethical choice?

With the advance of the AI, another ethical dilemma is: how much should we advance and replace humans with machines? At what cost? When should big corporations stop?

The article ends by reiterating the need to educate people of the responsibility that comes with technology. From the creation to the use of technology, society must understand the implications of technology abuse so it can evolve in an ethically fair direction.