



# Information Technology Engineering

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Module A.I

# **An Overview of Ethics**

# Reference:

## Ethics in Information Technology

SIXTH EDITION

6th Edition

George W. Reynolds



ETHICS IN  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

### Chapter I: An Overview of Ethics

+GEORGE W. REYNOLDS

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# Objectives

- What is ethics, and why is it important to act according to a code of principles?
- Why is business ethics becoming increasingly important?
- What are corporations doing to improve business ethics?
- Why are corporations interested in fostering good business ethics?

# Objectives (continued)

- What approach can you take to ensure ethical decision making?
- What trends have increased the risk of using information technology unethically?

*Ethics must begin at the top of an organization.*

*It is a leadership issue, and  
the chief executive must set the example.*

**Edward Hennessy, CEO, Allied Signal**



# Contents: An Overview of Ethics

## ➤ What is Ethics

- ◇ Definition of Ethics
- ◇ The Importance of Integrity
- ◇ Difference between Moral, Ethics, and Laws

## ➤ Ethics in Business World

- ◇ Why Fostering Good Business Ethics is Important
- ◇ Improving Corporate Ethics
- ◇ Creating an Ethical Work Environment
- ◇ Including Ethical Considerations in Decision Making

## ➤ Ethics in Information Technology

# What is Ethics?

- A **code of behavior** that is defined by the group to which an individual belongs.
- **Ethical behavior:**
  1. **Conforms to generally accepted norms**
  2. **May change** over time to meet the evolving needs of the society or a group of people who share similar laws, traditions, and values that provide structure
  3. Enable them to **live in an organized manner**.
- Ethics help members of a group **understand their roles and responsibilities** so they can work together to achieve mutual benefits such as security, access to resources, and the pursuit of life goals.



# What is Moral?

- The **personal principles** upon which an individual bases his or her decisions about what **is right and what is wrong**.
- They are core beliefs formed and adhered to by an individual:
  - Many of us have a core belief that all people should be treated with respect and this belief governs our actions toward others.
  - Your moral principles are statements of what you believe to be rules of right conduct.

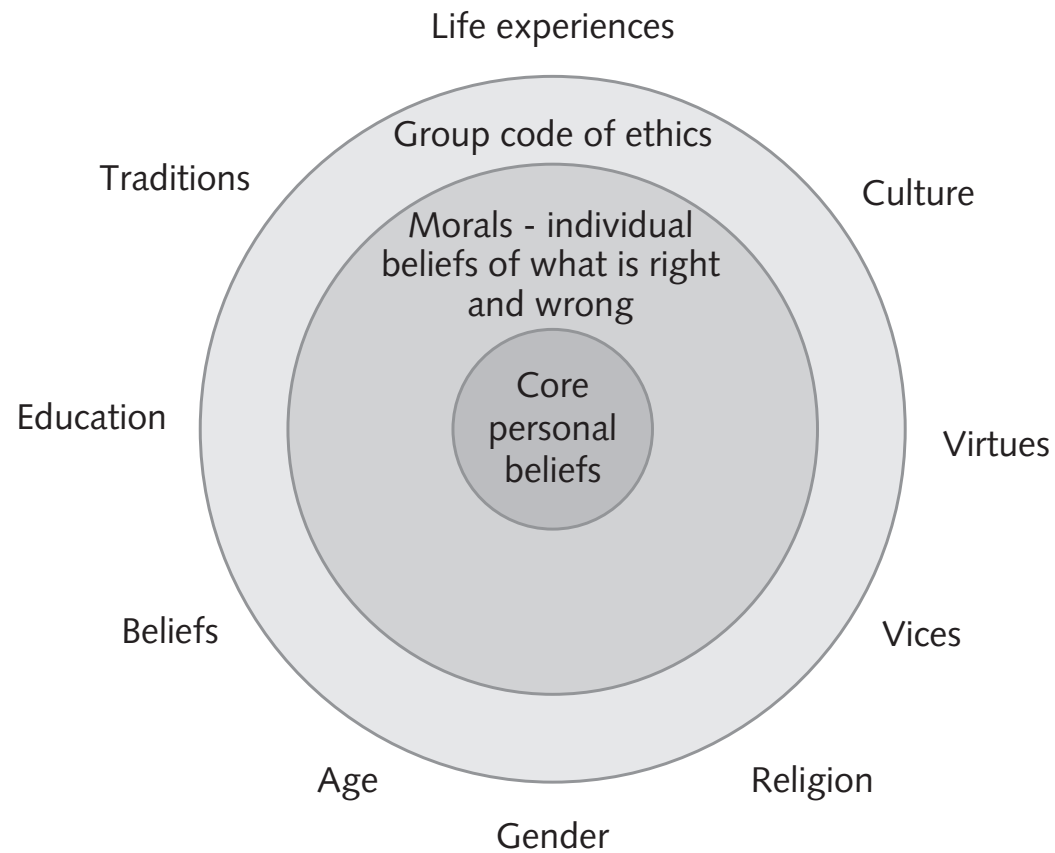
# Moral Values:

- People learn **habits** that are good or bad:
  - Virtues**
    - Habits that incline people to do what is acceptable (e.g., Fairness, generosity, ...)
  - Vices**
    - Habits of unacceptable behavior (e.g., vanity, greedy, ...)
- **Value system**
  - Scheme of moral values based on Virtues and Vices

# **Let us Discuss Some Cases:**

1. Moral Disagreements
2. Software Piracy
3. Impact of age, cultural group, ethnic background, religion, life experience, education, and gender
4. Ethics vs Moral

# Relationship Between Ethics and Morals



# The Importance of Integrity

- Integrity is a cornerstone of ethical behavior
- **People with integrity**
  1. Act in accordance with a personal code of principles
  2. Extend to all people the same respect and consideration that you desire
  3. Apply the same moral standards in all situations

# Morals, Ethics, and Laws

- **Morals:**

- One's personal beliefs about right and wrongs

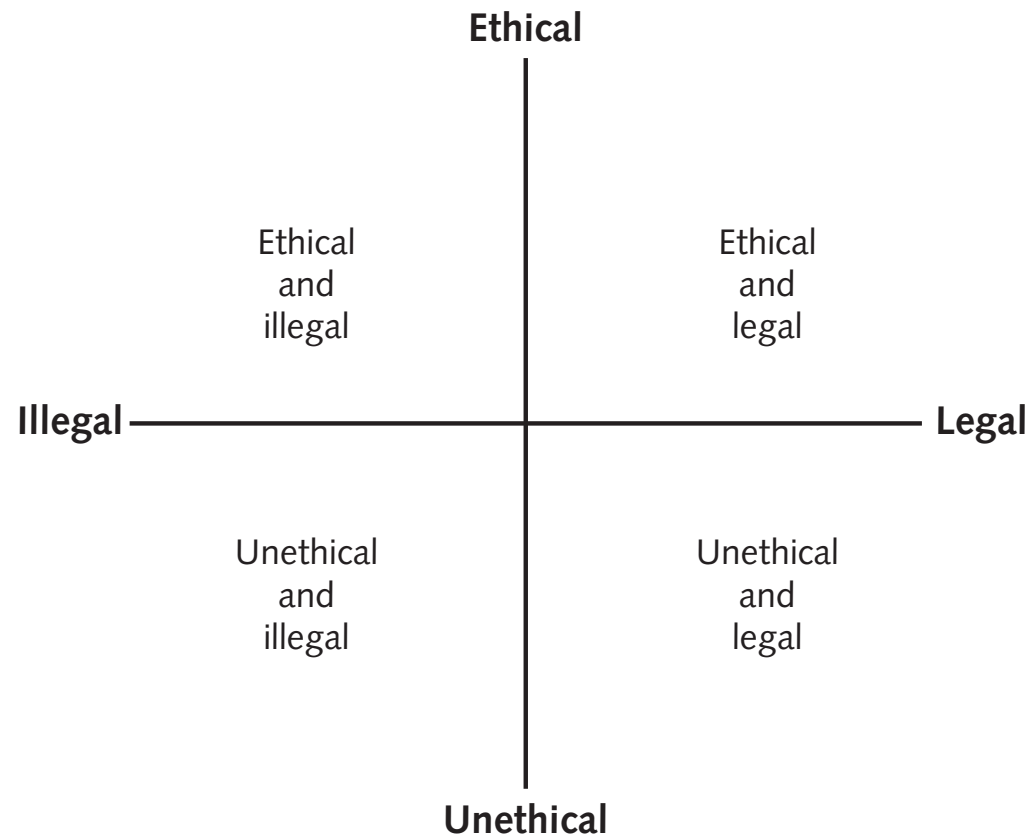
- **Ethics:**

- Describes standard or codes of behavior expected of an individual by a group (nation, organization, ...)

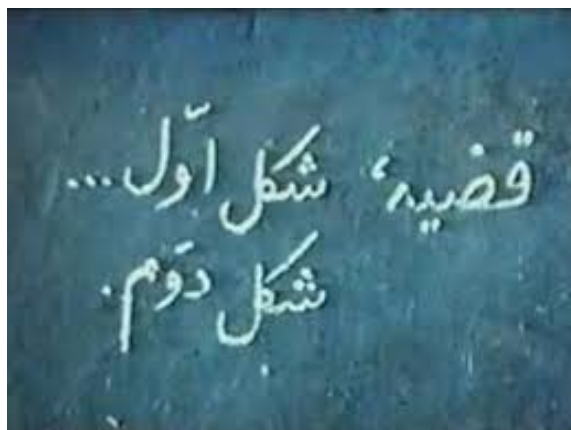
- **Law:**

- A system of roles that tells us what we can and cannot do.

# Legal vs Ethicals



# قضیه شکل اول، شکل دوم

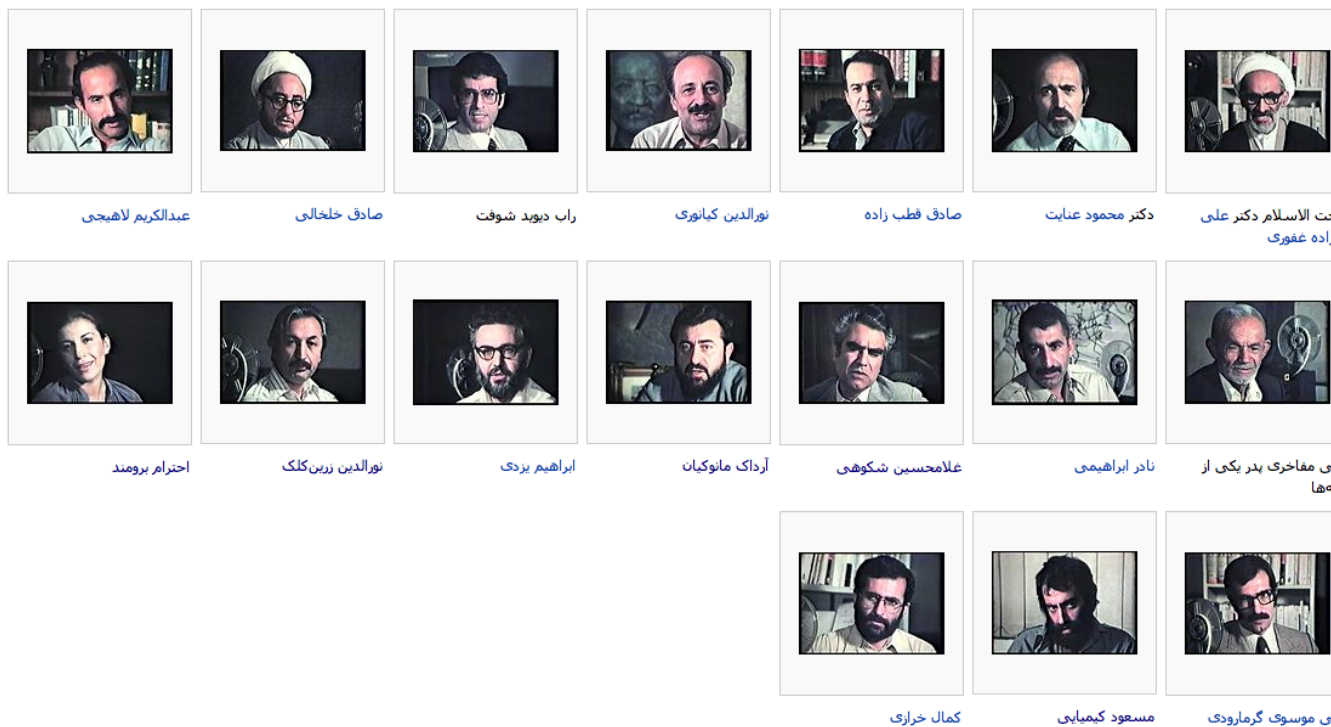


**قضیه شکل اول، شکل دوم**

کارگردان	عباس کیارستمی
تهیه کننده	کانون پرورش فکری کودکان و نوجوانان
فیلم برداری	هوشنگ بهارلو
تدوین	عباس کیارستمی
تاریخ انتشار	۱۳۸۸
مدت زمان	۵۳ دقیقه
زبان	فارسی



# قضیه شکل اول، شکل دوم



How ethics decisions could be important?

## **CASE STUDY: HP SCANDAL**

## **Case Study: Hewlett-Packard Information Leakage**

In January 2006, the technology web site CNET published an article about HP's long-term strategy.



A significant impact on the competitiveness of the company and impact its share price

# HP Scandal

HP chairman Patricia Dunn authorized an internal investigation of HP board members in 2005



Three detectives obtained and used the targeted individuals' Social Security numbers to impersonate those individuals in calls to the phone company, with the goal of obtaining private phone records.

# HP Scandal

The California state attorney general filed criminal charges against Dunn and Hunsaker



**Kevin Hunsaker:**

Senior legal counsel and director of ethics and standards of business conduct

# HP Scandal



HP agreed to pay \$14.5 million to cover fines and legal costs, and also agreed to strengthen its corporate governance practices



**George Keyworth:** the source of leakage

# Discussion



## **1 - Which issue is more disconcerting:**

- The fact that a board member leaked confidential information about the firm?
- The tactics used to investigate the leak?

**2. Can the use of pretexting to gain information ever be justified?  
Is it considered legal under any circumstances?**

# News of the World

- Keith Rupert Murdoch is an Australian American media mogul!
- In July 2011 Murdoch faced allegations that his companies, including the News of the World, owned by News Corporation, had been regularly hacking the phones of celebrities, royalty and public citizens.





Mini Project I:

# **ETHICAL DECISIONS IN IT**