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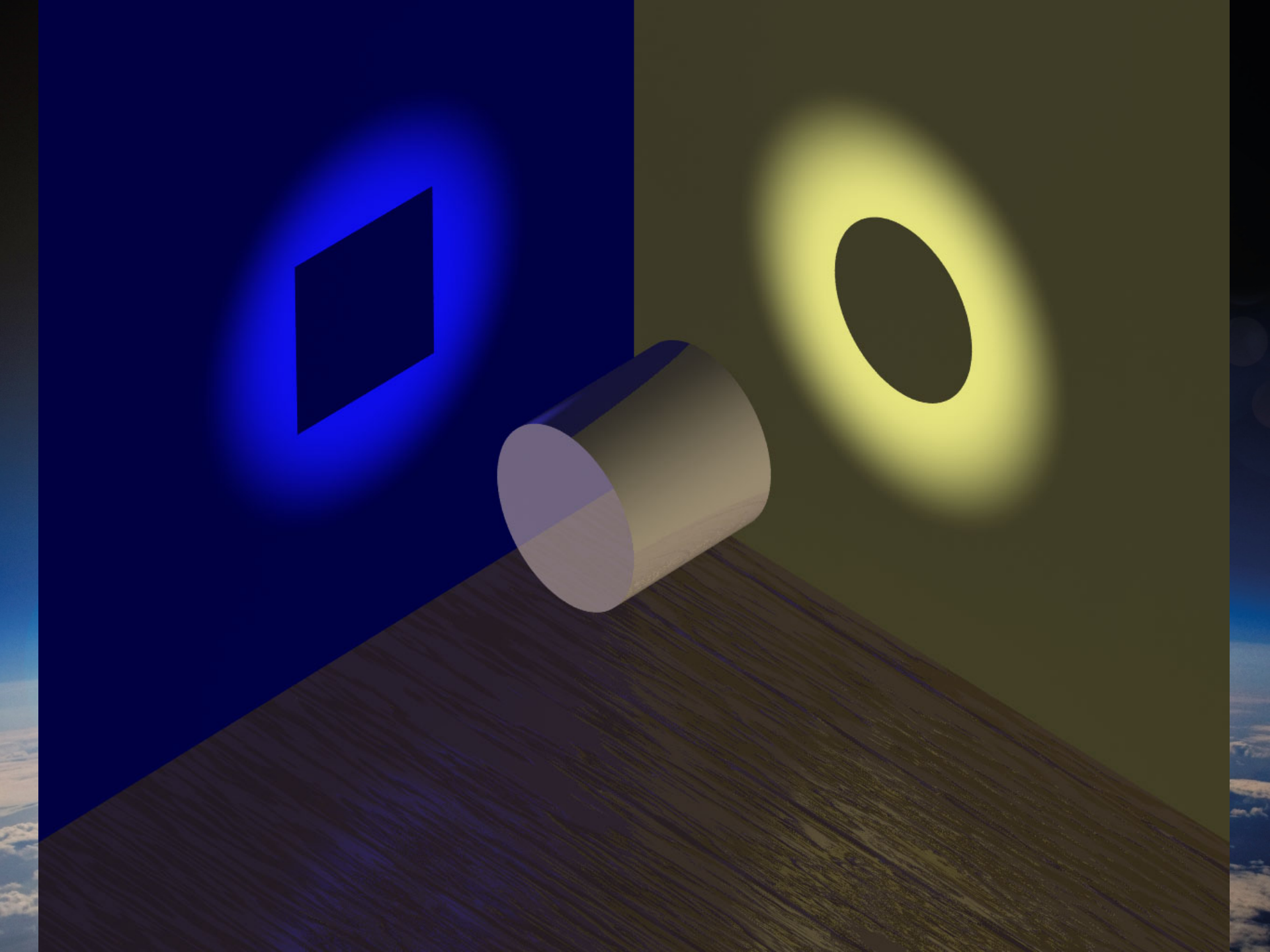
FIT1049 IT Professional Practice

Week 7:

Professional Ethics



Calvin and Hobbes



Last Week: Teams

- Teams an Introduction
- Team Exercise 1: Stranded
- Team Exercise 2: String
- Writing Reflections

Did you read the e-Pub for week 7

- A. Yes, It was good.
- B. Yes, It was bad
- C. No, I had technical difficulties
- D. No, I did not get around to it.

Assignment 2

- Assignment 2 Released this week
- Put into groups in Tutorial
- Meet in the extra hour starting this week

Assignment 2 – personality profile

- Balance of team personalities as well as roles is important
- Myer-Briggs – one common personality profile method
 - Extraversion (E) - (I) Introversion
 - Sensing (S) - (N) Intuition
 - Thinking (T) - (F) Feeling
 - Judgment (J) - (P) Perception

Ethics: Overview

- Introduction to Ethics
- Ethics for the IT professional
- ACS Code of Ethics



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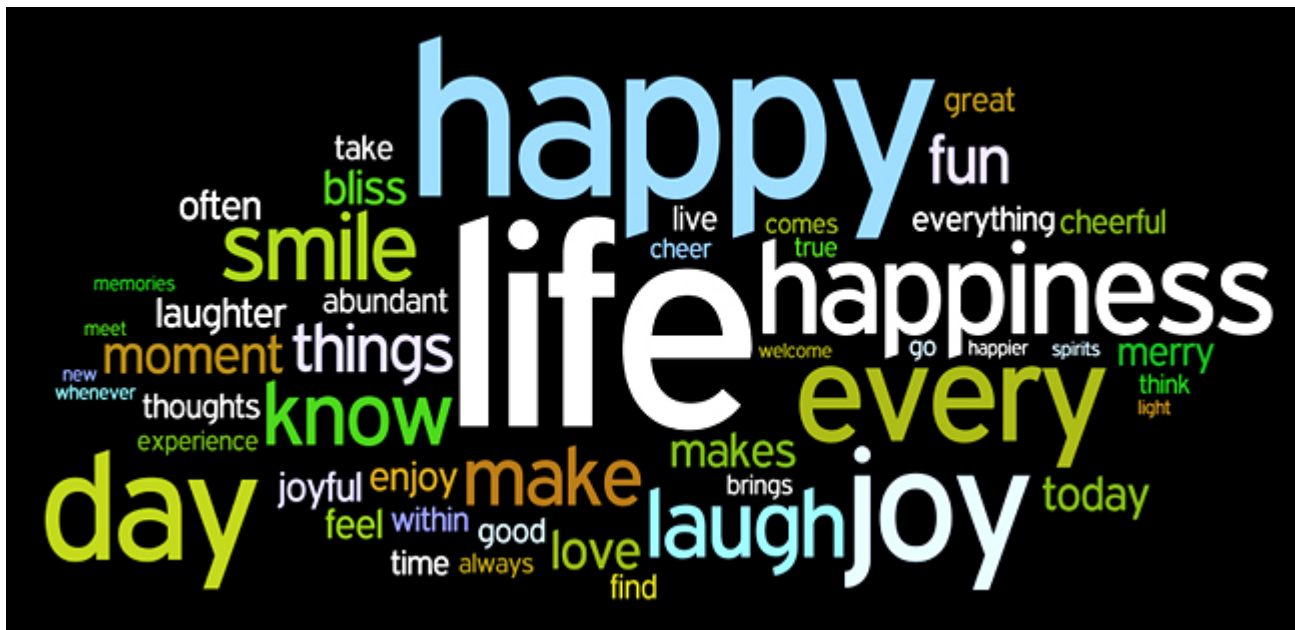
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“Core values”?

Life

Happiness

Ability to accomplish goals



Ways to view the world

Selfish point of view: consider only self and own core values

Ethical point of view: respect other people and their core values



museltonbrent.wordpress.com/tag/selfish/



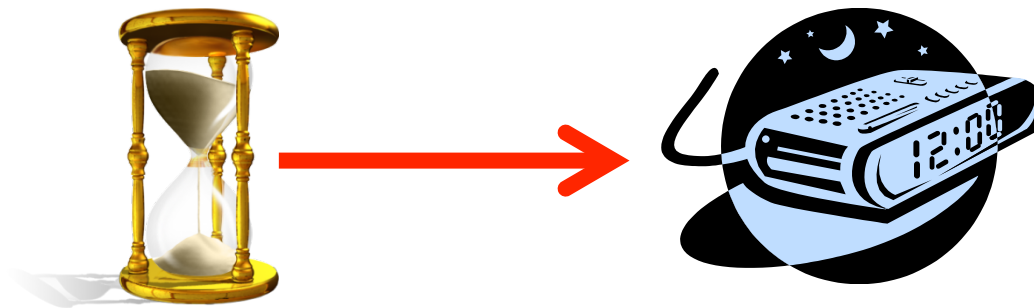
arkarthick.com/2010/10/23/10-things-to-notice-while-commenting

Definitions

Society

Association of people organized under a system of rules

Rules: advance the good of members over time....



Definitions

Morality

Right vs Wrong

- Intentions
- Decisions
- Actions



what-buddha-said.net/drops/Mighty_is_Morality.htm

Definitions

Ethics

Often used interchangeably with 'morality'

Usually more systematic
consideration of right & wrong



What is Ethics?

Each society forms a set of rules

- establishes the boundaries
- generally accepted behavior.

Often expressed in statements about

- how people should behave
- they fit together to form the moral code
- by which a society lives.

Why study ethics?

Ethics:

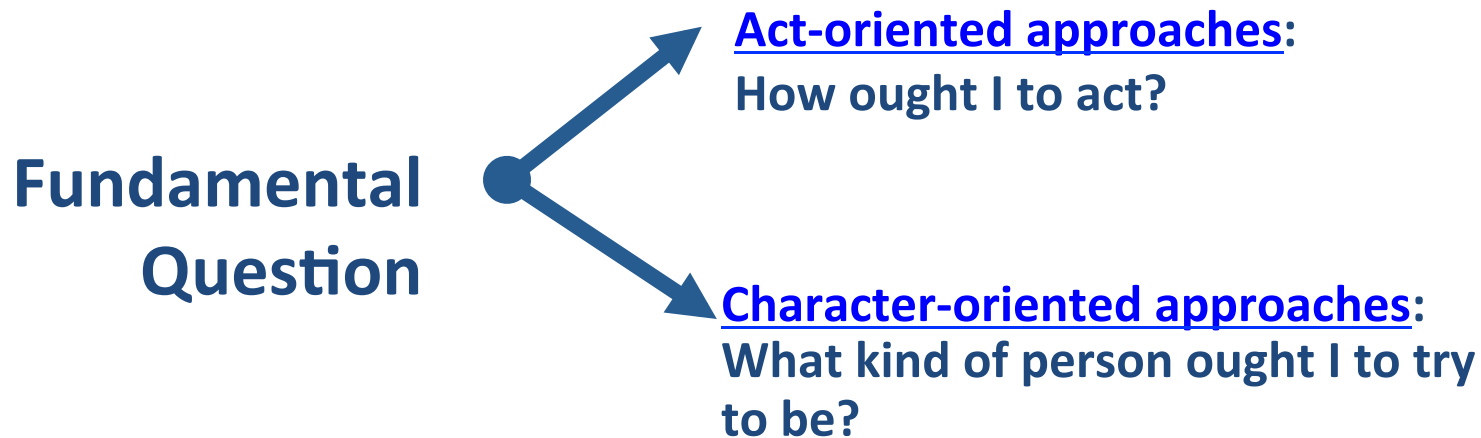
A way to decide the best thing to do

New problems accompany new technologies

“Common wisdom” may not exist for novel situations brought about by new technologies

The Basic Question of Ethics

Historically, philosophers have disagreed about what the basic question of ethics is. They fall into two camps:



Rule-oriented Approaches

Numerous approaches have one thing in common: **rules trump consequences.**

No matter how much good might be accomplished, you cannot break the rules



Rule-oriented approaches

Examples:

- The Golden Rule
- Human Rights
- Justice
- Kant & Deontology
- Ten Commandments

Consequence-oriented approach

Relativism

Ethical Egoism

Principle of Utility

Ethical dilemma: Trolley problem



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The trolley problem

Ethical Dilemma: The trolley problem

What would you do?

Pull the lever – save five at the expense of one
Don't pull the lever – let the five die

Ethical Dilemma: The trolley problem

Important Person What would you do?

Pull the lever – save five at the expense of one
Don't pull the lever – let the five die

Ethical Dilemma: The trolley problem

Important to you What would you do?



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Pull the lever – save five at the expense of one
Don't pull the lever – let the five die

What would you do? Using a rule You
cannot touch the lever

Pull the lever – save five at the expense of one

Don't pull the lever – let the five die

Ethical Dilemma: [The trolley problem](#)



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What would you do? Using a consequence base approach: you must save as many as you can

Pull the lever – save five at the expense of one

Don't pull the lever – let the five die

Technology Dilemma: Outsourcing

A large Australian company is trying to find ways to reduce their costs. They examine the idea of outsourcing their customer support staff to a call-center in the South-East Asia. This will mean firing 100 Australian-based staff and replacing them with cheaper, overseas-based staff.

What is the ethical thing to do?

Technology dilemma: Should this company outsource?

Yes, outsource staff

No, keep the current staff

e-Folio Activity: Group Ethical discussion

- Are you doing anything wrong?
- Who benefits?
- Who gets hurt?
- Is this providing an unfair advantage?
- What other information might help you answer these questions?
- Does one group benefit and another suffer.
- We will re-poll after discussion

Technology dilemma: Should this company outsource?

Yes, outsource staff

No, keep the current staff

Technology dilemma: Should this company outsource?

If you were using a rule based approach

- Profit first
- Australian Society first
- World wide community first

Relativism

No universal norms of right and wrong

One person can say “X is right,”
another can say “X is wrong,”
and both can be right



Subjective Relativism *

- Each person decides right and wrong for
- himself or herself



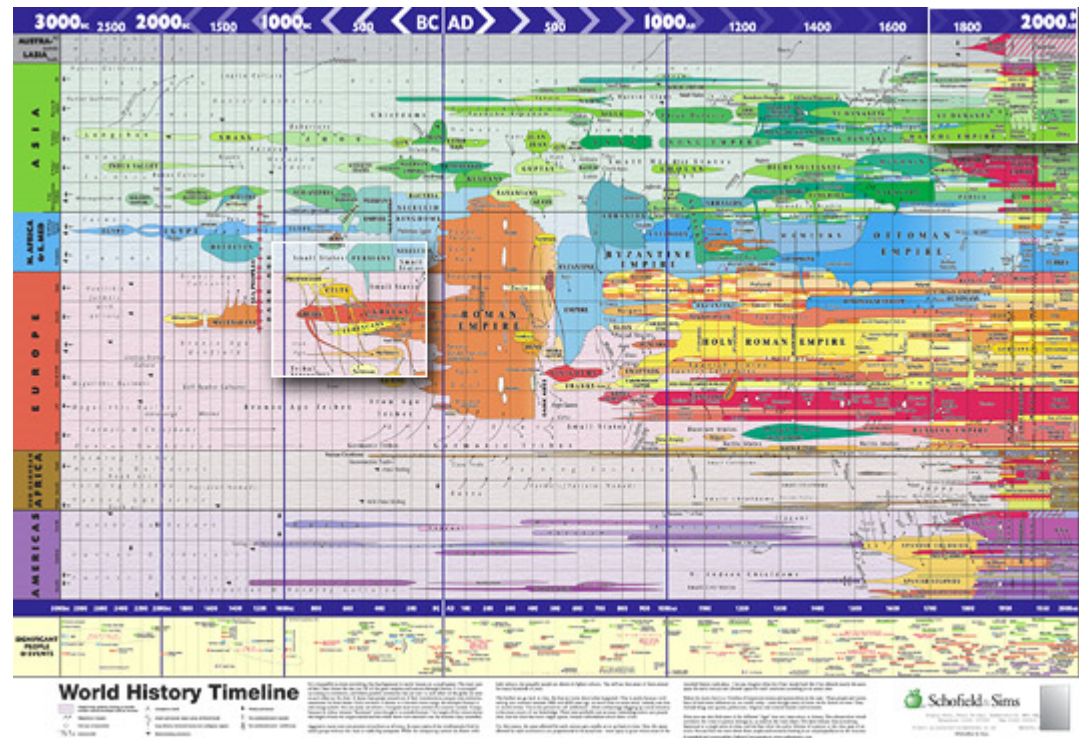
“What’s right for you may
not be right for me”

Cultural Relativism


“right” and “wrong” depends upon a society’s moral guidelines

Time?

Place?



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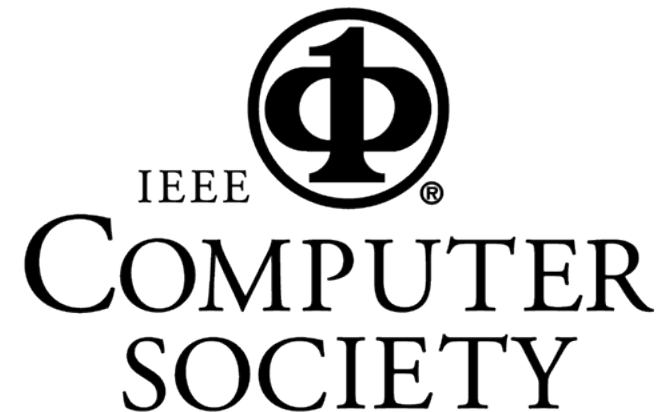
Professions

- Initial professional education
- Accreditation
- Skills development
- Certification
- Licensing
- Professional development
- Code of ethics
- Professional society

Is an IT-related career a profession?

- Certification and licensing not required
- Tertiary degree not required
- Apprenticeship not required
- Membership in professional society optional
- No specific requirements for continuing education
- Often not individual practitioners
- Ability to harm public can be similar to members of mature professions

Professional Societies



Monash IT Graduates

All eligible for membership of the ACS



Professional Societies



internet industry association

policy, advocacy and representation for Australian business

Purpose of Professional Societies

Promoting the development of IT

Advancing research into IT

Developing policies and ethical standards of IT use



Purpose of Professional Societies

Maintaining technical standards

Building communities of IT
specialists

Developing community
understanding and appreciation of IT



Why develop codes?

Self-regulation is often preferable to legal supervision

Most pertinent for those with specialist knowledge and a charge of social responsibility



Taylor and Moynihan (2002) argue that information professionals are caught in a web of sometimes conflicting needs, torn between the demands of

- Users
- Society
- Employers
- Their own needs



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ACS Code of Professional Conduct

Values

Priorities

I must place the interests of the community above those of personal or sectional interests.

Competency

I must work competently and diligently for my clients and employers.

Honesty

I must be honest in my representation of skills, knowledge, services and products.

ACS Code of Professional Conduct Values

Social Implications

I must strive to enhance the quality of life of those affected by my work

Professional Development

I must enhance my own professional development, and that of my colleagues, employees and students

Information Technology Profession

I must enhance the integrity of the Information Technology profession and the respect of its members for each other



‘The main aspect of ethical consideration for systems analysts is the uses to which the systems that they develop or maintain will be put’.
(Taylor and Moynihan, 2002)

- To whom are information managers and systems analysts ultimately responsible?
- Can professional ethics be aligned with an organisation’s pursuit of power and profit?



Ethical \neq Legal (Baltzan, 2009, p.386)

	Legal	Illegal
Ethical	I	II
Unethical	III	IV

Ethics: Summary

Based on this lecture, and the Week 8 tutorial you should have:

- a basic understanding of ethics

- an understanding of the role of ethics in IT

- Awareness of the values within the ACS Code of Professional Conduct

- An understanding of the relationship between ethical and legal obligations