Jacob Steckel

CSC402

Article Review 8

Code of Ethics

This article is about how software engineering has adopted its very own code of ethics. These ethics are wildly supported and the author explains the main ideas behind each one and how they have been altered through the years. The eight principles that are covered in the code of ethics are public, client and employer, product, judgement, management, profession, colleagues, and self.

For ethics involving the public, software engineers must act consistently with the public interest. There were two public ethics that caught my eye. One was to accept full responsibility for their own work; so, whether it is good or bad, do not give others credit/blame for something you have done. The other was to approve software only if it is safe, meets specifications, and passes the necessary tests. Approving vulnerable software could create loads of security issues for clients.

For client and employer, software engineers have a duty to act in a manner that is in the best interest of their client and employer consistent with the public interest. The ethic that stood out the most to me in this category was to not knowingly use software that was obtained illegally or unethically. This means that utilizing software that was stolen should be avoided at all costs.

For product, software engineers must ensure that their products and related modifications are on par with the highest professional standards possible. The first ethic mentioned in product was, in my opinion, the most important. It states that software engineers must strive for software that is high quality, maintains acceptable cost, and follows a reasonable schedule. This ethic is something that every reputable company should hope to achieve.

For judgement, software engineers shall maintain independence and integrity regarding their professional judgement. The most interesting ethic in this section is that software engineers mustn’t engage in deceptive financial practices such as bribery. I never thought about that being an issue in software engineering so that one caught me a bit off guard.

For management, software engineering managers and other leaders must promote and maintain an ethical approach to the management of software development and maintenance. One ethical job of management is to ensure that their engineers are aware of the standards that they are being held to. If the software engineers don’t know of the ethical standards, how could you expect them to follow them.

For profession, software engineers must advance the integrity, honesty, and reputation of the profession consistent with public interest. The most basic, but perhaps the most important ethic for profession is to promote public knowledge of software engineering. As a professional, it is your job to educate others. Promoting public knowledge could also help the growth of the field.

For colleagues, software engineers must be as fair and supportive of their colleagues as possible. One ethic that I was happy to read was to credit fully the work of others and refrain from taking undue credit. This is something that every human should value, I cannot stand when one person does all the work but doesn’t receive any credit.

For self, software engineers must participate in a lifelong learning regarding the practice of their profession and shall promote and ethical approach to the practice of the profession. An ethic that has been promoted more and more throughout history but is still very prevalent today is not giving unfair treatment to anyone because of any irrelevant prejudices. With all the race issues that have been surfacing over the last few years, I thought this was an important one.