

The purpose of following a code of ethics is to require us to consider the people who we affect through the things that we create. In many cases, we are able to take advantage of users because we have a greater understanding of the technology in the products that they use. Therefore, it is our responsibility to look out for the wellbeing of these users.

When I have to make an ethical decision, I try to think about what I would want. For example, if a product is collecting data on me, I don't mind. I understand that many apps and applications rely on this information to create a more personalized experience or how to make parts of the app better. However, I believe that the developers of the app must explain that they are collecting data on their users and how they are using it. This is because the developers must maintain as much transparency as possible so that the users do not believe that they are being taken advantage of.

The issue that had the most diverse response from the class was a situation where you were designing a medical device where there was a flaw discovered right before its release, and it could result in the death of 1 in every 100,000 users. The group I was in decided that this information needed to be released to the public so as to maintain this transparency that we felt needs to be maintained. However, another group in the class made a good point, explaining that this device will still be saving an extra 99,999 for every 1 that it cannot.

When it comes to how the Virtues of Ethics relates to our case study, it failed integrity, honesty, and responsibility. The issue is that I feel that these are the three most important ones as related to a product. As engineers, it is our responsibility to maintain the integrity of our industry, to be honest to the users of our products, and to take ultimate responsibility when our product fails. In not telling the users about this 'bug', we are abusing our knowledge of the product and technology when it is our responsibility to help users to understand it.