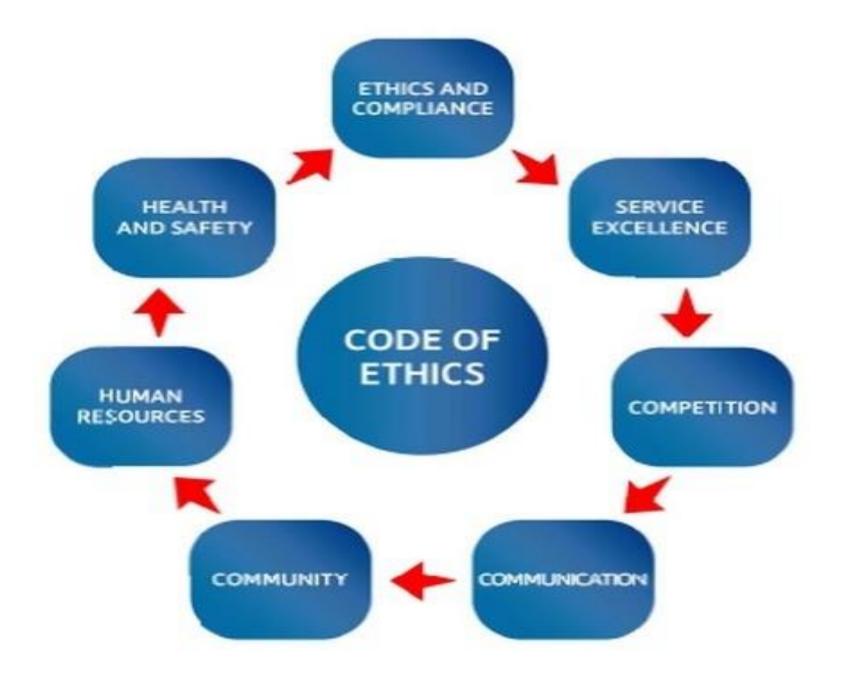# Ethics, Technology and Value

Revisiting Ethics:

- Ethics, therefore, is a field of inquiry whose subject is human actions, collectively called human conduct, which are performed consciously, willfully, and for which one can be held responsible.

- These acts must have knowledge that signifies the presence of a motive, voluntariness to signify that it is willed, and freedom to signify the presence of free choice to act or not to act.

Code of Ethics:

Code of Ethics

- Each and every domain; health facilities, Government offices, Private firms etc are all governed by particular and definitive regiment of rules; these are what we call Codes Of Ethics

- Code of Ethics is a written document that clearly states what acceptable and unacceptable behaviors are for all the employees in an organization. These rules, guidelines, canons, advisories are usually followed by members of the respective domains.

Code of Ethics

- Use of codes of ethics is still limited to professions and high-visibility institutions and businesses

- The wording, content, and target of many codes differ greatly.

- Some codes are written purposely for the public; others are targeting employees, and yet others are for professionals only.

Code of Ethics

Depending on the domain, ethical codes can take any of the following forms:

1. Principles, which may act as guidelines, references, or bases for some document.

2. Public policies, which may include aspects of acceptable behavior, norms, and practices of a society or group.

3. Codes of conduct, which may include ethical principles

4. Legal instruments, which enforce good conduct through courts.

Code of Ethics

The public officed Ethics;

http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/Public
OfficerEthicsAct.pdf

For professional Accountants

https://www.ifac.org/system/files/publications/files/ifac-
code-of-ethics-for.pdf

For Medical Doctors in Kenya

http://medicalboard.co.ke/resources/Code-of-Professional-
Conduct-and-Discipline-6th-Edition.pdf

Code of Ethics

Association for Computing Machinery

https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics

IEEE

https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html

Reasons to Join such Professional bodies

To Broaden your knowledge: Professional organizations sometimes offer courses, seminars and/or lectures to keep themselves and their members up to date on the latest industry innovations, research and trends. Staying informed on your industry's trends will only help you in the long run and will put you one step ahead of the competition!

Enhance your network: We all know that networking is key for the movers and shakers of the community! Making connections is critical, and joining associations give countless opportunities to connect on a local and sometimes even global level. For most people, creating professional relationships is important, and joining a group allows you to have a sense of security and trust. From this, you are able to support and help one another in reaching your professional goals.

Reasons to Join such Professional bodies

Be a Leader: Professional associations give you an opportunity to develop your skills as a leader, and this is important not only for your personal growth, but for your growth in your firm

Become a mentor: Giving back can be the greatest reward and benefit. Participating in forums, chat groups or discussion boards sponsored by an association is also a great way to grow your network. This allows you to use your peers as sounding boards and often make some great friends with the same interests as you

Give back to the community: There are plenty of organizations that coordinate socially conscious initiatives to support community efforts. Whether it is a nearby animal shelter or a food drive for a local charity, there are sure to be plenty of options for you to choose for if you are looking to give back.

Objectives of Code of Ethics?

1. **Disciplinary:** By instilling discipline, the group or profession ensures professionalism and integrity of its members.

2. **Advisory:** The codes are usually a good source of tips to members and offer advice and guidance in areas where there are fuzzy moral issues.

3. **Educational:** Ethical codes are good educational tools for members of the domain, especially the new ones who have to learn the do's and don'ts of the new profession. These codes are also a good source of renewal for the older members needing to refresh and polish their possibly waning morals.

4. **Inspirational:** Besides being disciplinary, advisory, and educational, the codes should also carry subliminal messages to those using them to inspire them to be "good."

5. **Publicity:** One way for professions to create a good clientele is to show that they have a strong code of ethics and, therefore, their members are committed to basic values and are responsible.

REFLECTIONS ON COMPUTER ETHICS

➤ **Changing Premises**

Although it is true that the outcome of the ethics value function remains the same, the domain set itself has changed and will keep changing. The number of input possibilities for every human action keeps on growing with new advances in computer technology.

➤ **Different Temptations**

In traditional ethics there were few temptations prompting unethical actions but computer technology has generated many more temptations for each input action.

❑ Speed: The speed of gathering information has greatly increased, causing unethical actions to be carried out in shorter times, thus decreasing the chances of detection.

❑ Privacy and Anonymity: The great availability of computers and computer- related technology in less visible places like people's homes; high, cheap and fast communication equipment; and software that can guarantee anonymity are creating a highly tempting environment for unethical acts

REFLECTIONS ON COMPUTER ETHICS

❑ Nature of Medium: copying digital data without erasing or altering the original in any way causes little or no suspicion and hence encourages unethical activities.

❑ Aesthetic attraction: Technology, especially when it is new, seems to offer challenges to those who try to use it. Thus, there is a sigh of relief and a sign of great achievement if one overcomes a technological obstacle. In the same way, if an intruder tries to break into a computer system, the sign of success and the euphoria thereafter overshadows the incivility of the act itself.

❑ Increased availability of potential victims: With the widespread use of computers and the ever-widening reach of computer networks, an individual can now reach an unprecedented audience. This in itself creates an urge to attempt things that one would otherwise not have done.

REFLECTIONS ON COMPUTER ETHICS

❑International scope: The boundary less nature of many computer networks, including the Internet, has created a temptation of its own. Now the entire world is well within reach by a touch of a button. This can tempt many intruders, many trying to circumvent their country's laws, and others thinking that an illegal act done in another country cannot be prosecuted in their own country. There are lots of temptations here.

❑ The power to destroy: Computers seem to give this enormous invisible power to those who have them. This seemingly well-informed power may be a temptation to some. Although some of these temptations can still be found in the set of the old temptations, most of them are new.

REFLECTIONS ON COMPUTER ETHICS

➢ Different means of Delivery
Different ways of stealing people's data, identity etc

➢ Complacent Society
Moral and ethical standards vs the new wonder technology

➢ Ethical Muddles
With the possibility of numerous inputs from events, new difficulties of choice and justification cause ethical dilemmas, creating conflicting arguments and counterarguments on an input possibility of an event. This is because computers produce new situations that sometimes fall within our existing laws, rules, and moral principles, and sometimes fall outside these guidelines.

Individual Assignment

Write notes, using scenarios on Technology and values; is there a trade off? If or if not, explain

Due: 4th May(Tuesday) 2023