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<div align="center">Ethics or Profits?</div>

In today's society where sin runs rampant, oftentimes morals and ethics are disregarded in exchange for extra profits or to meet deadlines. No matter what field or profession someone is in, they will most likely be faced with several ethical dilemmas in their workplace that will force them to choose to either stick with their own personal values, or cave to the unethical demands of their company or employer. Both the ACM and IEEE Code of Ethics provide several commendable principles for any employee to follow, and more importantly the Bible gives us several verses that support these codes of conduct.

As someone working towards a Computer Science degree, there are several ethical dilemmas I may personally encounter at work as a programmer. According to Peter Wayner at InfoWorld.com, one common ethical issue that developers may face is, "How much protection is enough". It is important for developers to decide if they want to spend time making their product more secure, which costs time and resources, but offers long term security for their customers, or sacrifice security for features and a sooner product release. "Teams that ignore these responsibilities are usually able to generate plenty of other code and create piles of wonderful features that people crave. Who cares if they're secure?" (Wayner, 2014) As a programmer, I will frequently be working with other people and sometimes will need to pick up from other developer's code and build on it. The ethical dilemma that arises from this is what to do when this code is poorly written. Andrej Kovačević from SimpleProgrammer.com gives an interesting

take on this dilemma, and I find his response controversial, yet one to consider. He says, "To uphold high ethical standards as a programmer means calling out substandard or inappropriate code wherever you find it" (Kovačević, 2020). I believe he is saying that programmers shouldn't be afraid to report lazy or sloppy code because otherwise it will not only make my job harder but also anyone else's that I pass the code on to. Lastly, an ethical dilemma that I along with any professional might encounter, is also given by Andrej Kovačević. He encourages programmers to not be afraid to say no by challenging us with a question: "What happens when the client asks for a feature or a change that's unethical when you've already invested countless hours of work? If you went into the project with your ethical boundaries firmly established, the answer is that you have to put your foot down and say no" (Kovačević, 2020). Although this may result in the loss of the client and the money that comes with them, it is far more important to uphold our integrity and personal code of ethics.

When faced with these dilemmas, there will always be several paths that one can take in response. In order to become prepared to handle such challenges, it is important to have a solid foundational code of ethics that can be referenced whenever ethical dilemmas arise. The ACM and IEEE Code of Ethics provide an excellent source of principles to follow in order to maintain a good code of conduct in the workplace as a programmer or in any profession. For example, in response to the first ethical dilemma that I gave, the ACM Code of Ethics gives a response with principle 2.9, "Design and implement systems that are robustly and usably secure" (ACM.org). Personally, I will always choose to make my projects as secure as my ability to do so allows because that will result in a greater amount of trust with my employers and our customers. Regarding the challenge of working with others whose code has been sloppily written, the ACM Code of Ethics principle 2.1 states the importance of striving for the highest quality of work by

stating, "Computing professionals should insist on and support high quality work from themselves and from colleagues". The IEEE Code of Ethics offers a solution to this dilemma with principle 5; "Seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors" (IEEE.org). I believe this is the correct response to this challenge and the one that I would take if I encountered it. I would attempt to communicate with the teammate whose code I was building from and offer honest criticism to help them and only if they refused to communicate would I report their code. Principle 4 of the IEEE Code of Ethics covers the challenge of saying no to unethical requests from clients or employers. It states, "avoid unlawful conduct in professional activities, and to reject bribery in all its forms" (IEEE.org). Such bribery could also be interpreted as a bigger paycheck or contract. Although it may be tempting to accept a request to include an unethical feature in my product if it means making more money, I will always choose not to because it goes against my integrity and ethical code as a Christian. Instead I would attempt to negotiate for a more ethical approach, or simply decline the request, and trust that God would reward my decision since it is honoring him.

The ACM and IEEE Code of conducts are great tools to follow as a professional in any field but ultimately they don't hold a candle to the greatest code of conduct, the Holy Bible, which is God's word and instructions for us to follow as Christians. However a few of the principles given by ACM and IEE actually line up with those provided in the Bible. IEEE's principle 7 says "to treat all persons fairly and with respect" (IEEE.org) and in Luke 6:31, God gives us the golden rule which states, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This IEEE principle is clearly supported by the Bible and is one that we should all strive to follow. Also principle 1.3 of the ACM Code of Conduct clearly lines up with what the Bible says about honesty in Proverbs 10:9, which says "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever

takes crooked paths will be found out" (ACM.org). It is so important to remain honest in the workplace because it shows that we have integrity and are willing to do what is right in the face of adversity or challenges.

Overall, it is important that people in all professional fields have some form of code of conduct to follow. The ACM and IEEE provide some good principles, but ultimately the Bible is the best guide for us to follow if we wish to keep good ethics in the workplace.

Works Cited

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