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### Rights, Agreements and the Usage of Code

The process of coding involves writing your own code to inevitably make a functioning program. What makes it your own? This brings up some questions regarding intellectual property. What happens when we use other people's code? What happens when other people use our code? In the computer science world, when coding any computer program you are entitled to ownership of your creation. In an article by BBC, they say “copyright gives the creators of media the rights to control how media is used and distributed” (BBC). I liked this definition contrasting to the one given by Merriam Webster Dictionary, which states “the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something” (Merriam-Webster). The difference in the aspect of computer science is that, once your work is created, it has a copyright. It is your decision of how you want to go about sharing or not sharing your work.

As a programmer, you should be aware of the code you find, use, or implement from the internet. You are obligated to examine the licensing on the open source you find and make sure to appropriately follow their guidelines. A sufficient action would first and foremost include following ACM or IEEE codes of ethics. You need to make sure you are not breaking any laws by wrongfully creating closed source projects or commercial products to profit without permission from the original creator or creators. It does in fact matter because otherwise it is illegal.

The topic of using other people's work brought in my personal opinion through my Christian viewpoint. A verse that stuck out to me that I can relate to this topic is James 4:17. The New International Version of the Holy Bible states “If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and does not do it, it is sin for them” (NIV). As a programmer and a Christian it is important to acknowledge the right thing to do. Not only so, but knowing how to do the right thing. In this case, giving proper credit and following the correct actions to whomever claims copyright. If you do not follow these commands it is breaking the legal law and it's breaking God's law through sin.

When talking about a license agreement for my own personal code, I believe would be fair is the GNU GPLv3 license. I chose this agreement because I would want others to be able to see and look at my code, but I would not want people to be able to use it in distribution situations in which I cannot see what it is used for. I would not want my code circulating in closed source projects. If I were creating a project in which I was working with a large group of people or if I were working for a large group of people, and I wanted the project to be used as a dependent for other sources, I might want to choose the MIT license instead.

### Works Cited

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