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I'm only a few months from entering the workforce and now is the time I need to be examining my code of ethics. Everyone has their own code that they follow, whether than code is explicit or not and I think it's important to understand why our ethical codes are built the way they are. Having a code of ethics pushes innovation forward and helps prevent companies and individuals from competing in anti-competitive processes that could harm more people than they help.

Ethical situations within computer engineering are more complicated than people give them credit for. The first way I would approach the situation would be to analyze my personal code of ethics and to think about who the situation is hurting, if anyone. If it doesn't break my code of ethics or I can't decide on the situation I'll move to looking at it through the lens of something like the IEEE code of ethics. Even these might not be enough, especially since inaction can be equivalent to choosing a side even if people don't think of it that way.

We talked about a few different ethical issues in class, with one that stood out to me the most. Our faculty member asked if we had any companies that we refused to work for due to our codes of ethics. I responded that I won't work for companies like Raytheon or Rockwell Collins due to the fact that they make weapons and that the things I would work on there may be used to injure or kill people. My code of ethics is probably much different than that of other engineers at Iowa State and I follow politics in the US quite closely, which makes it difficult for me since I know that impact that some big companies have on other people. A lot of the situations given to us in class were fairly straightforward and had an obvious right answer, which is why my group

talked about more difficult situations. Our faculty member pushed us to write this essay with this in mind, which I appreciate.

Three of the virtues of ethics that apply most to my situation are integrity, honesty, and responsibility. Integrity is important to me because I want to feel that my actions are what I define as the best morally for the situation that I'm in. I want to make sure my personal code of ethics is comfortable for me and really lines up with what I believe, which also ties into honesty. It's important to me to be honest with myself and others about what I believe. I shouldn't work for a company I despise or that I think may hurt others even if the pay is good. Finally, responsibility is important, especially the "moral obligation to help others" part of it. That is the biggest part for me. I don't think I would be happy in a company that doesn't actively try to help others. I don't think there's another indicator that belongs with my virtue of ethics, the ones that were defined fit quite well. I think about things fairly simply, but I guess we'll see how things go when I'm faced with an ambiguous ethical situation.