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### CSCI 301 Ethics Paper

Copyrights are a great way for coders to claim property to what is theirs. Though it can sometimes be confusing what is open source and what is not but using permissive licenses can help. Using the ACM Code of Ethics, we can create a good line for everyone to morally abide by to respect copyrights, open source licenses, and the intellectual property of fellow colleagues.

A copyright according to the United States is protection provided by laws to the creators of original works. It allows the holder of the copyright to say who can and cannot reproduce copies, derive their work from said work, and who can sell. If it is a music or some type of play or other live action event the holder of the copyright also determines who can perform it publicly. Likewise, the owner can also determine who can display the work publicly as well. In a Computer Science setting it gives the creators of code reassurance that they will have say over what they create.

If I had to choose a license for my work, it would be the MIT license because I usually start from a blank slate and it provides a good blanket to maneuver under. Meaning it is very encompassing in what it allows, and I think it would provide the freedom I would need and use. Also, if I ever needed to release under a different license I could without worry.

The ACM Code of Ethics is a good line for every coder to strive for. The ACM Code of Ethics and IEEE Code of Ethics are similar in it tells how one is supposed to act, though, IEEE

Code of Ethics delves more into the individual and does not specify coding at all which the ACM Code of Ethics does. It is good to follow both codes, though, talking from a Computer Science perspective, the ACM Code of Ethics is more relevant when talking about coding.

When coding we have a responsibility as an individual to use the proper licenses and give credit where credit is due. The ACM Code of Ethics says in section 2.8 “Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good” and in section 3.1 “Ensure that the public good is the central concern during all professional computing work.” Using these two codes we can see that we should be following all proper licensing and be conscious of what we take from online and other sources. If someone creates something and I take the code and pass it as my own or change it in some nonsignificant way and then put it to the market I am in the wrong. I would be breaking the ACM code of Ethics by hurting the creator financially and intellectually while also using it in a nonauthorized way. I would also be going against my Christian world view in I am stealing from the creator and lying, as the Bible clearly talks against both.

A copyright is a powerful tool that gives protection to creators and should encourage coders to create without worrying about whether or not they will get credit. The ACM Code of Ethics and the IEEE Code of Ethics provides great guidelines for everyone in the professional tech field. As such, it is the responsibility of every coder to be conscious of what they use and where they are getting it from. While we cannot be perfect, we can try our best to give credit where credit is due.

Works Cited

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