

# ITMM 485 / 585

## Dr. Gurram Gopal

Legal and Ethical Issues in  
Information Technology



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### Ch1: Introduction to Ethics and the Law

#### Part 4: Brey's Disclosive Method for Cyberethics



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#### Learning Objectives:

- Describe/discuss Brey's "Disclosive" method for cyberethics

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#### Disclosive Method (Continued)

- Brey points out that one weakness of the "standard method of applied ethics" is that it tends to focus on *known* moral controversies
- So, that model fails to identify practices involving cybertechnology which have moral implications but that are not yet known.
- Brey refers to these practices as having *morally opaque* (or *morally non-transparent*) features, which he contrasts with "morally transparent" features.



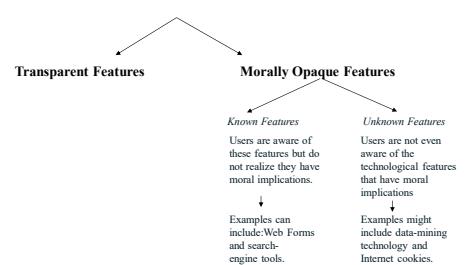
#### A "Disclosive" Method for Cyberethics

- Brey (2004) believes that because of embedded biases in cybertechnology, the standard applied-ethics methodology is not adequate for identifying cyberethics issues.
- For example, Brey notes that we might fail to notice certain features embedded in the *design* of cybertechnology.
- Using the standard model, we might also fail to recognize that certain *practices* involving cybertechnology can have moral implications.

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**Figure 1-2: Embedded Technological Features Having Moral Implications**



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### A Multi-Disciplinary and Multi-Level Method for Cyberethics

Brey's disclosive method is *multidisciplinary* because it requires the collaboration of:

- computer scientists,
- philosophers,
- social scientists.

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### A Multi-Disciplinary & Multi-Level Method for Cyberethics (Continued)

Brey's scheme is also *multi-level* because the method for conducting computer ethics research requires three levels of analysis, i.e., a:

- *disclosure level*,
- *theoretical level*,
- *application level*.

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