Karina Quick

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Mr. O'Neill

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Ethics of Copyright

Right when anyone creates something, whether its an original art piece, a song, or a computer program, that person becomes the copyright holder. The reason for copyright is so that the person who created something won't get cheated out on something like the chance to make money or getting the credit for their own work (BBC News). It also helps recognize the person who put the time and work behind the creation instead of giving that credit to someone who stole the idea or creation, or "reuses" it for their own projects. Copyright shows respect to the people who put the ideas, time, and labor behind the creation, and it is our duty to uphold that responsibility to look into what we use from the internet (Code of Ethics).

If I were to be writing code, I would probably use the MIT license since it will allow people to modify, share, and use it which I am okay with happening depending on what the code I'm writing is, what it's for, and where I share the code for others to see. Also, with the MIT license, I am able to change the license later on if I decided I'm going to use it for a bigger project. If I am writing code for a business though, then I will put it under a stricter license like GPLv3 or AGPLv3 since that will allow for only the business and I to have access to the source code. It will also be really beneficial to the business to use a stricter license because they wouldn't want a competitor to have the same program as them and be able to use the program to modify it to help that business (Open Source Guides).

My obligations as a programmer to the other programmers around me and all over the internet is to respect their work and look into the copyright that they have placed on their code to see if I'm able to reuse it or not. If I want to use their code, I could check in with the owner of the copyright themselves and ask for permission . If the permission is given or they already have a license that gives permission, then it's my moral responsibility to only use a small portion of the code and not copy the whole work since then it wouldn't be considered my own code at all (SJSU Research Guides). This matters because, as a Christian, it would go against one of the Ten Commandments which is "thou shalt not steal" and if I copied someone else's work, then that would make me a thief, not only in God's eyes, but in the eyes of the people around me.

Works Cited

"The Code Affirms an Obligation of Computing Professionals to Use Their Skills for the Benefit of Society." *Code of Ethics*, www.acm.org/code-of-ethics.

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