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Engineering Ethics

A “Code of Ethics” regardless of the setting, serves as a guiding framework, in terms of professional engineers, it helps to outline fundamental principles and values that should help maintain and regulate conduct. Such a code exists in engineering to ensure integrity, credibility and also helps to emphasize the responsibilities they have towards critical points within the society, environment, morals, and how they’ll impact the future.

When I personally face an ethical situation I first try to assess it as objectively as I can, gathering relevant factual information about the situation. I then will compare my choices based on how they could impact the future. Yes, it is important to understand how a choice will affect you currently as well, but usually the future impact will be longer lasting and in some cases compounding results.

As part of the coursework we discussed several main general topics that often relate to engineers, these include situations in environmental sustainability, technological innovation, professional integrity, as well as social responsibilities. I specifically looked into the given class example of the murder investigation that happened, where officers were trying to gather information that Amazon's Echo device at the scene had stored. This brought up the issues of integrity, should they have even gathered this information in the first place? It also brought up the issue of social responsibility, in situations where federal officers are involved, are they

allowed to just hand over personal sensitive information? One could also make the argument for the issue of fairness, was the homeowner treated properly? In the end the authorities were allowed to obtain a bunch of information from Amazon and the owner couldn't do a thing about it. I read about many other examples regarding these two issues in the discussion posts on ethics. I found them to be quite interesting and also were easily relatable to my own morals.

Ethical responsibility lies at the heart of engineering practice, shaping decisions that impact society, the environment, and future generations. The code of ethics helps us have a set in stone foundation that offers objectivity and consistency. Ethical responsibility is something all of us engineering students have to think about when going on the hunt for our careers in the future. What type of impact do we want to have? And how will we achieve it, ensuring a positive impact?