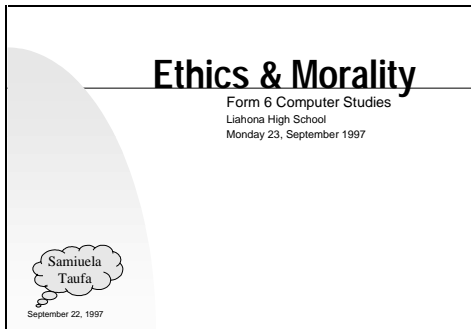# Ethics & Morality

A Form 6 Computer Studies seminar notes first presented at Liahona High School, Monday 22nd, September 1997 by Samiuela LV Taufa.
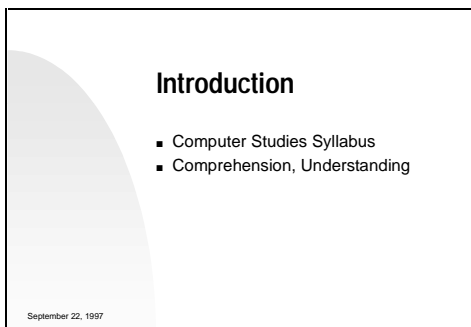samt@tongatapu.net.to        http://www.tongatapu.net.to

### Ethics & Morality
Form 6 Computer Studies
Liahona High School
Monday 23, September 1997

Samiuela
Taufa

September 22, 1997

These seminar notes were developed at the request of Tonga Siliva and support of Liahona High School for their 1997 Form 6 Comuter Studies Course.

"Seminar" from Latin *sêminârium*, meaning seed plot is used to describe the approach, context of this presentation to emphasise that the activities during the presentation is to initiate, not answer, to begin the process of discovering issues on Ethics for the participants, not to provide hard rules.

Incentive items and props used during the presentation were supplied by:
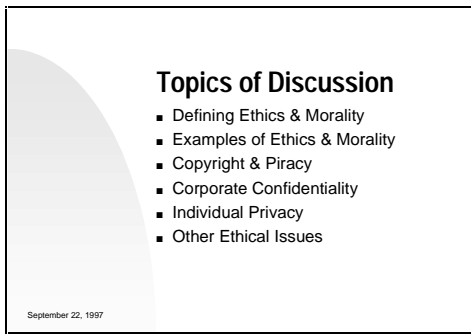Moore Electronics Ltd.,
Tungi Arcade, Nuku'alofa,
Tongatapu

### Introduction

■ Computer Studies Syllabus
■ Comprehension, Understanding

September 22, 1997

* **Note Taking:** Copies of these notes are available with Tonga Siliva and should be available in your school libraries.

Please only make notes where it will help you understand or remember a question you need / want to ask. Do not copy down every word I say, you can get them from my notes.

**Questions:** If you have any questions, put your hands up and I'll will try to finish my sentence and then ask you to raise your question. If you have a question, it probably means a significant/big part of the class would like to know the same answer as well, so please feel invited to ask your question.

When you ask a question, state your first name, the topic of our discussion that your question is related to, and your question.

* **Syllabus:** The primary focus of this presentation is to help you comprehend and understand the topic in the Form 6 Computer Studies syllabus regarding "*Identifying and Discussing Ethical Issues.*"

**Topics of Discussion**

- Defining Ethics & Morality
- Examples of Ethics & Morality
- Copyright & Piracy
- Corporate Confidentiality
- Individual Privacy
- Other Ethical Issues

September 22, 1997

We will first talk about:

- What Ethics & Morality is, then cover each syllabus topic individually.
- What is copyright & piracy
- We will cover Corporate Confidentiality, what it means and its importance to us.
- What is individual Privacy,
- And we will cover some 'not in the syllabus' but important ethical issues for us.

* Existing syllabus topics:

*The Form 6 syllabus prescribes the following:*

"Explore ethical issues relating to accessing data held in computer systems:
- Students should be able to:
  Identify and discuss ethical issues;
  Range:  Individual Privacy, Corporate Confidentiality, Piracy, and Copyright.

 Examples from Tonga would be an added advantage (if any)

We will also discuss other issues, not mentioned in the syllabus that expands the question of ethics and how it applies to us.
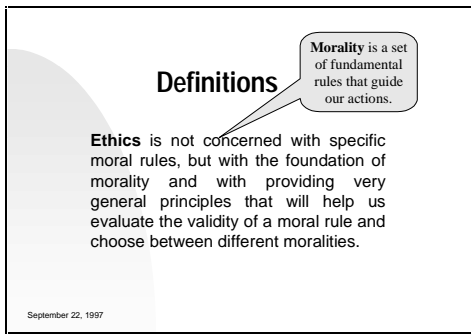
*We will cover these issues during the session, and at the end of the discussions you should have sufficient information and questions to help you begin to find your own answers.*

*Taking down, putting to paper every word I say will not be as beneficial as if you listen and work together with me so that you understand the topic or have questions to ask when you know you don't understand.*

We will cover the material necessary for your course syllabus but more importantly we want to understand and get some value out of this seminar.

**Definitions**

> **Morality** is a set of fundamental rules that guide our actions.

**Ethics** is not concerned with specific moral rules, but with the foundation of morality and with providing very general principles that will help us evaluate the validity of a moral rule and choose between different moralities.

September 22, 1997

**W**e begin by discussing these provided definitions for Ethics and Morality.

**T**o understand the overall topic issue, we must first look at what does Ethics, leading to the syllabus' "ethical issues", mean. We will also discuss "morality" as another word to simplify our discussions.

So that we can have a set of common understanding about Ethics, I have broken it into two words Ethics and Morality.

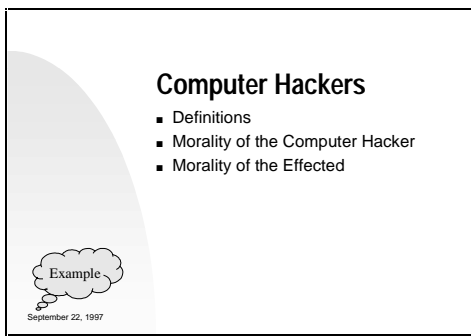*Pen/Key Ring:* Someone to read the **Ethics** out loud.
*Pen/Key Ring:* Someone to read the **Morality** out loud.

- Ethics is about how you create tools of knowledge, skills and awareness within yourself on whether or not you will will choose to perform an action.
- Morality is the guiding rules that you use so you don't have to evaluate, go through the 'Ethics' checklist every time you encounter (come across) a situation.
- Ethics is saying, I know Mary believes I should do this, and Paul says I should do this instead. I will do _____ because of _____.
- 
- Morality helps Mary select her belief in what should be done, Morality helps Paul in his belief.
- Ethics, or ethical thinking allows you to understand Paul's morality, and how it may differ from Mary's morality.

As we progress through this session we will see more examples of ethics and morality to help us understand, but if the further we go on the more confused you get, please raise your hand.

Ethics is about getting and learning what tools you can use to make a decision on the morality of an action, something you do.

If at the end of this session you have not learnt how Ethics and Morality applies to your coursework and your life, then we have wasted our time together.

**Computer Hackers**

- Definitions
- Morality of the Computer Hacker
- Morality of the Effected

Example

September 22, 1997

Other ethical issues in case further examples are necessary:

- The hungry thief and the police
- The road speedster and the law
- War and Peace

**Toloa & 'Atele**
**Split the audience into Two groups, one set as Tupou College and the second as Tonga College:**

**Tonga College:  Ask these students for the reasoning for their recent stoning, throwing stones at the buses carrying Tupou College students.**

**Response:  They beat up our kids, they beat us at the football.**

**Tupou College:  Ask these students for the reasoning for their fire-bombing of Tonga College premises.**

**Suggest:  Morality, morals, being displayed by the two colleges are "if someone hits you, hit them back harder, and hit them back in such a way they do not ever think about trying it again."**
**"An eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth."**

To help illustrate:
*[Ask the following questions, and repeat out loud if the rest of the students could not hear the statements.]*

Write on the board what the answers are

*Pen / Keyring:* Who or what is a hacker ?

Pen / Keyring: Why does a hacker, hack computers ?

Pen / Keyring: Why do computer owners support (not support) hackers?

"Here is where we apply our knowledge, skills, awareness to make an ethical decision of which group to support".

To demonstrate awareness of above example, and theory so far, take a show of hands in the following:

   * Those to who personally support the computer owners view ?
   * Those who support the hackers view ?
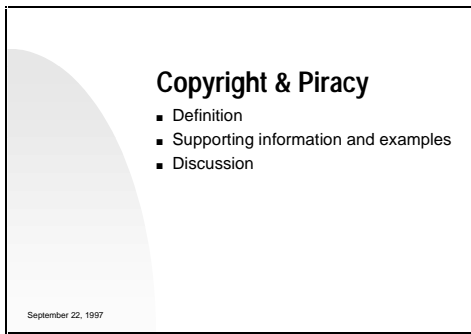   * Those who support both views ?

Ethics is understanding there are differences, and making an informed decision.

**Tupou College / Tonga College Example: What other ways could these schools dealt with the problem?**
 **"Turn the other cheak"**

**The morals, guidelines to action taken by the two schools is similar to the "Eye for an Eye" morality in the Old Testament.**

**Ethics is about thinking through the different types of responses to a situation.  It's your choice how you respond, ethics helps you see the different choices you can make.**

**Copyright & Piracy**
- Definition
- Supporting information and examples
- Discussion

September 22, 1997

**Copyright:** The legal right granted to an author, a composer, a playwright, a publisher, or a distributor to exclusive publication, production, sale, or distribution of a literary, musical, dramatic, or artistic work.

**Piracy:** can refer to the illegal copying of things such as video tapes and computer programs.

In preparing for this seminar, did anyone look-up or have a definition of what copyright or piracy means ?

What examples, discussion points do you have ?

Pen / Key Ring: Definition of Copyright or Piracy and if they can give an example.

**Copyright** is where the owner, creator of the original 'copy' owns the legal rights to the reproduction, re-use of the copy material.

**Piracy** is where someone has created a copy of a product, item, without the explicit permission of the owner of the copyright.

**Examples:**
Lady Diana Spencer, the former Princess of Wales took a newspaper to court for publishing letters she had written to a friend. The courts found that Diana was the originator of the letters and therefore held the 'right's, legal ownership, to the republication of the letters.

In Australia, Microsoft recently won a court case valued at over AUD$2 million against a company that was copying and selling Microsoft MS-DOS, MS-Windows without Microsoft's knowledge or permission.

Taimi 'o Tonga in June ran articles about complaints from songwriters and musical bands about Radio Tonga broadcasting their music and selling tapes of their songs without the singer/songwriters permission.

In Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, you can walk into stores that will sell you CDs containing software from Corel, Lotus, Microsoft for as little as $20 without the original publisher's permission.

In our schools, offices today you have photocopies of materials such as maps, photos, and of computer programs such as games which have not been supplied or are being used within the requirements of the original.

## Copyright & Piracy

- Copyright is where the owner of the original 'copy' has the legal 'rights' to copying and use of the original.
- Illegally copying materials under copyright is called "Piracy"

Example

September 22, 1997

**Prop**: MS CDs, Taped Recordings

---

Copyright and Piracy are legal terms, the question of ethical behaviour is an issue for us when we consider (look at) the reasons why copyrights were initiated.

Copyright was instigated to make sure that the people who work hard at creating something useful also gain the material benefits from their work's distribution.

People who write software, singers, computer programmers, movie actors make their money and living on the sale of the CDs, floppy diskettes. You have the choice of either paying for the use of their works or you can copy with out paying.

Many of us just do not know that people have worked hard to make the songs sound right, make the programs work. Is it right for you and I to make copies of whatever we like without paying for it?

Some of us think that these people are already making a lot of money so it isn't going to hurt if we (just a single person) make copies.
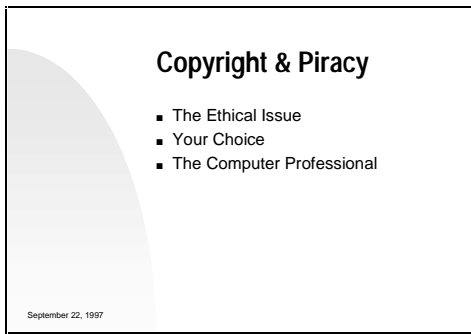
Do you like it when someone copies your class work without your permission ? Would you like it if you worked hard all day, all week to make something and then you find out that someone else is making money from your work without ever asking you about it?

From a Biblical perspective, when the Pharisees asked Jesus, Should Jews pay taxes to the Romans, Jesus asked them for a coin and asked whose image it was that showed on the coin. What image is it that shows on the floppies, CDs, video-tapes, cassettes ?
*Matt 22:15-22. Mark 12:13-17, Luke 20:20-26*

Render unto Caesar what is Caesars.

---

**Copyright & Piracy**

- The Ethical Issue
- Your Choice
- The Computer Professional

September 22, 1997

**The Ethical Issue is do you copy material that someone else has created ?**

Here in Tonga as a computer user you will always come across a program that the company you will work for has not bought, and you want it because it will be good for the company and for yourself.

Should you make a copy of the disks?

*[Some of you will say yes, some say no, and others will say yes "sometimes".]*

Who can give me an example of when it would be right to make a copy?

*[When the company doesn't have the money? Because the software maker is already making millions of dollars and doesn't need the money? Because the software is out of date and nobody else is using it?*

*What is the guiding moral if the response is yes? Suggest: When you think you need it, then its OK.]*
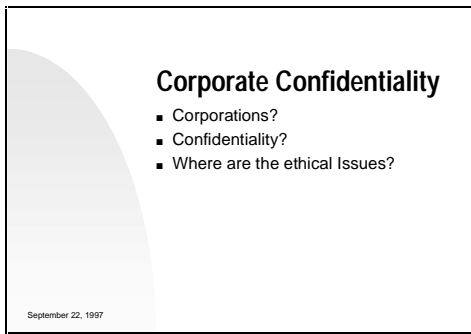
Who can explain why you should never copy?

*[It is not right? Somebody worked hard to create it so you should pay them for their work?]*

**As a Computer Professional:**
How will you work towards protecting copyrights and removing piracy from the workplace ?

*[Tonga does have a copyright law, although it has not been tested (trialed in court) and there are no law enforcement officers nor specialist lawyers to ensure copyrights are enforced. Copyright also termed in other countries as Intellectual Property Rights.]*

### Corporate Confidentiality

- Corporations?
- Confidentiality?
- Where are the ethical Issues?

September 22, 1997

Corporate Confidentiality and Corporate Responsibility is an extremely important topic for Computer Studies Students for it is a fact that in today's environment computer personnel have access to extremely sensitive information in relation to a company.

Literally at the fingertips of these students will be presented critical information effecting the future of organisations and individuals.

## What is a Corporation ?

*[A corporation is a term that is often used to signify a large organisation or company. Can you give me examples of a corporation here in Tonga?]*

Bank of Tonga, TCF, MC International, Western Union, Friendly Islands Bookshop, Air New Zealand, Polynesian Airlines, Royal Tonga, etc.
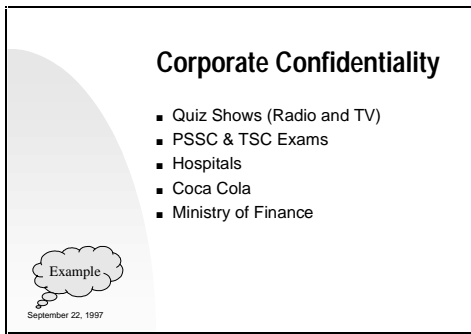
In our context, area of our discussions about ethics, we will look at corporations as any business or group of people, since the issues remains the same.

## What does Confidentiality or Confidential mean ?

*[Confidentiality is related to information or knowledge that should be kept secret, not to be discussed. Something that is 'confidential' does not have to be a secret for ever, but can be confidential for a short period.*

*The ethical issues arise when you are out there in the world and you, because of your good looks, or your hard work come across information that is confidential and what you choose to do (whether you tell someone else, or keep it secret.)]*

**Corporate Confidentiality**

- Quiz Shows (Radio and TV)
- PSSC & TSC Exams
- Hospitals
- Coca Cola
- Ministry of Finance

Example

September 22, 1997

**Ask the question before putting the slide up on the screen.**

From your experience, knowledge of listening to news programs identify and tell me the confidential/secret information for some of these organisations (corporations).

*Radio and TV Quiz Shows, PSSC and TSC Examinations , Hospitals, Coca Cola, Ministry of Finance,*

Why, and what importance is there in keeping this knowledge confidential even if only for a very short time?

**Write responses on the whiteboard.**
Radio & TV Quiz Shows - Questions and answers are confidential to ensure fairness during the competition.
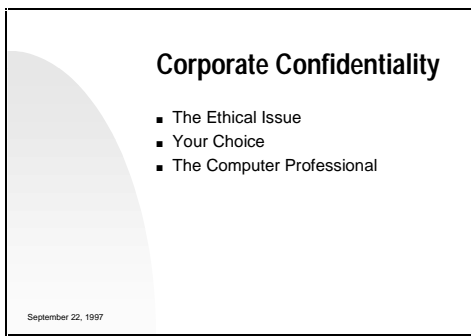
Exams - questions and answers are confidential to ensure fairness during the examination.

Hospitals - Medical Records are confidential to protect the patients private life where possible ailments may cause social resentment.  For example, patients with aids may be discriminated against by the public if the public new their condition.

Coca Cola - Formula for Coca Cola drinks are strictly confidential to ensure that only Coca Cola Coke drinks taste like Coke.

Ministry of Finance - Budget proposals are kept confidential until they are reported to Cabinet because the material information can effect market behaviour when taken out of context of the complete budget.

The ethical issues arise when you realise the consequences of divulging (telling other people) the confidential information of the organisation.

## Corporate Confidentiality

- The Ethical Issue
- Your Choice
- The Computer Professional

**The Ethical Issue is, do you tell about the company's secrets?**

What is the ethical issue in this scenario:

Imagine you are working for the School Department and you find out something silly about your former computer teacher. Do you tell all your classmates so you can all laugh about it?

*[The information, if found in the department files, is only for the knowledge of those specifically oriented to that task. It is not information to be shared with people outside the department or within the department.]*

Imagine you are working for a company and you find out that unknown to the police or government, the company has been illegally pouring toxic materials into the ground which kills the native birds, fish, and gets into the drinking water . Do you tell someone in the government, or police?

*[Two morals conflict, the moral of keeping corporate confidentiality, and the moral of obeying the laws of the country. In most situations, people will agree that the laws of the country are more important than the laws of a corporation.]*
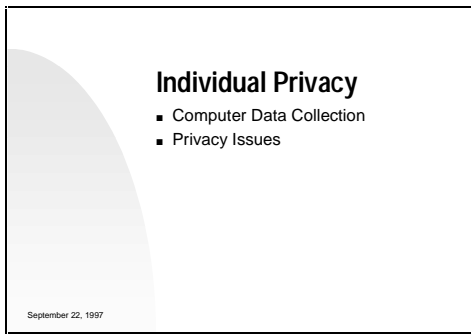
Imagine you are the loan officer at the local bank and a customer comes to you asking for a loan to build a new house using construction company Langa-kae-Pau, but you know that Langa-kae-Pau from the banks records is likely to fold/declare bankruptcy. Do you tell customer to use another construction company?

*[There may be more than one way to address this question. If you consider it is in the best interest of the bank and customer to use another construction company you can work with the client to select another company without directly telling the customer to make the change. It may already be a company policy to not invest in failing organisations, although by not supporting the failing construction company the bank itself is preventing needed cash being injected into the company].*

*This last example requires more thought.*

**As a Computer Professional:**
How do you ensure that information in your computers are only read by those who should have access to this information.

**Individual Privacy**
- Computer Data Collection
- Privacy Issues

September 22, 1997

In countries such as the USA, Australia, and New Zealand computers are used to make life more convenient.

You don't wait for the Bank teller, because you use a machine instead. And the machines open 24 hours a day so you can take money out anytime you feel like it.

You don't wait at the market aisle as long as before because the barcode readers speed you through.

When you make a phone call, computers put you through faster than a human operator, and computers keep track of how long you've been on the telephone and sends you a bill at the end of the month.

When you use the Internet, computers put you through to what you want to look at, browse.

When you go to the library, computers help you check out your books and look for other books you are interested in.

Individual Privacy becomes an issue because so much of what you do is stored and known to computers that someone might put all the information about you and find out exactly:-

What toothpaste you like the most, what toilet paper you prefer, what kind of books you read, which TV shows you prefer, what movies you watch, your habits, how much money you have in the bank. A wealth of information about you and about who you are can be obtained from computer databases already in existence.

**What can be collected on computers?**

Generate answers to this question and write responses onto the white-board, and using these responses ask students whether they would consider the release of this information relevant for other people?

Gender. Gender is rarely relevant as a measure of competence in a job, so this should not be relevant information for other people to know.

School Records. Should only be available to the principal, and teachers should only see records relating to their own classes.

Criminal Records. Should not be accessible to other people.

Bank Accounts. Should not be accessible to other people.

**Individual Privacy**

- School Records
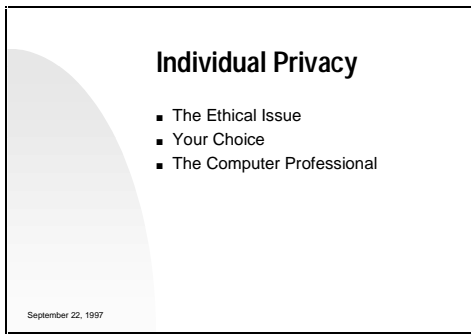- Medical Records
- Bank Records

Example

September 22, 1997

Even so, databases organisations' keep on you as an individual is important.

Your school records, might show that during primary school you were very noisy in class, not good at doing your work, a very poor student. But now you are a good high school student getting good grades and ready to get a Grade 1 in Computer Studies. What happened to you 10 years ago in primary school should not matter to anybody now. No one should have access to these records without your giving it to them ? What about after you get your Diploma, or Bachelors etc. ?

The Hospital, and doctors keep a record of the number of visits, why you visited and what treatment you received. When you interview with the Scholarship Committee, you don't want them to have automatic access to your medical records. The only thing that should interest them, that you want them to know, is whether you are healthy enough to complete the scholarship.

The Bank gives you a little book like MBf's savings book to let you know how much money you still have in the bank, and a record of your deposits and withdrawals. When you want to join the local Tennis Club, you don't want them to know your bank records.

**Individual Privacy**

- The Ethical Issue
- Your Choice
- The Computer Professional

September 22, 1997

The Ethical Issue is, if you had all the databases with all the information about people at your fingertips (keyboard), what use would be a valid, appropriate us of these databases?
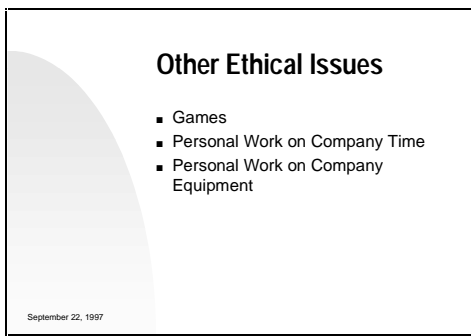
Your silence allows large companies to make their own decisions about what information they make readily available to the market, other individuals.

Do you have a choice about what information is collected and shared about you?

Not doing anything is your choice to let someone else decide.

**As a Computer Professional:**
How do you make sure that an individual's personal records are only available to those who should know the information and it is not used against that person.

**Other Ethical Issues**

- Games
- Personal Work on Company Time
- Personal Work on Company Equipment

September 22, 1997

If the students/audience has understood the seminar then there should be no need to gather responses.

The questions should be presented as "rhetorical" questions. The questions are not meant to be verbally answered, but should be self answering and thought through by the students themselves.

Apart from the major topics that the syllabus requires us to look at, a number of other situations where ethical issues can be discussed include a number of things that you may already be aware of.

We should not need to discuss these issues, and you should use the discussions we have had previously to make an ethical statement for yourself about these issues.

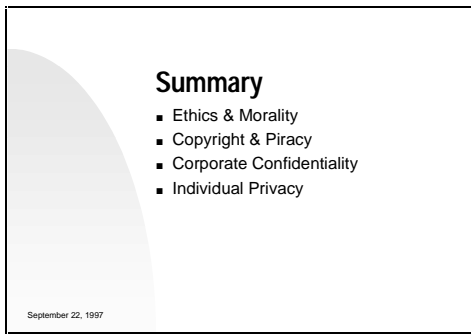When you are being paid to come to work, is there an ethical issue about playing games?

*Computers provide a range of great games to play, but you can just as easily take out a deck of cards, or take out the newspaper.*

What if while at work you need to run to the store, or do something personal, is there an ethical issue about being paid to do work when you are doing something else?

*You might be doing your shopping, or writing a letter to a friend, or going to the post office.*

What if you get to work and you need to do some personal work, and you will do it on the company's equipment, is there an ethical issue using the company's equipment for personal things?

*You might be calling a friend to say hello, or using the company's photocopier, or computer.*

**Summary**

- Ethics & Morality
- Copyright & Piracy
- Corporate Confidentiality
- Individual Privacy

September 22, 1997

Ethics is not a bag of morals that you carry around. Ethics is looking at a bag of morals and seeing how the individual morals differ from each other.

There are many ethical issues that will happen to you and me, each day. Hopefully what we have discussed today will help you make decisions of what to do.

**To summarise,**

Ethics is looking at different morals, guidelines and evaluating these morals.

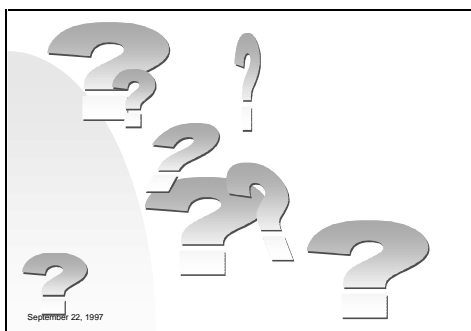Morality is a set of guidelines a person uses to help them make what they believe are the correct decisions.

Copyright is the legal right a person or company has to the copying, use of original material.

Piracy is illegally copying material.

Corporate Confidentiality is information a corporation believes should be kept secret.

Individual Privacy is the belief that individuals should have some control over the information about themselves that should be available to others.

Ethical Issues occur when a behaviour becomes questionable whether it should or should not happen. Ethical awareness is knowing that a decision needs to be made on what to do, that by doing what you do you have made a decision about the morals you will support.

Since we may not meet again, now is your opportunity to ask questions not answered or not understood through this session.

Remember if you don't understand something, it might be nobody understands it at all.

**What questions are there?**

*Continue to update these notes to include questions during the discussions.*