

Software Engineering Ethics / professional responsibilities

Informal ethics (it's not rule but as human being)

- As a software engineer, you must accept that your job involves wider responsibilities than simply the application of technical skills.
- You must also behave in an ethical and morally responsible way if you are to be respected as a professional engineer.
- Ethical behaviour is more than simply upholding the law but involves following a set of principles that are morally correct.

1. Confidentiality

- You should normally respect the confidentiality of your employers or clients irrespective of whether or not a formal confidentiality agreement has been signed.

2. Competence

- You should not misrepresent your level of competence. You should not knowingly accept work that is outside your Competence.

3. Intellectual property rights

- You should be aware of local laws governing the use of intellectual property such as patents and copyright. You should be careful to ensure that the intellectual property of employers and clients is protected.

4. Computer misuse

- You should not use your technical skills to misuse other people's computers. Computer misuse ranges from relatively trivial (game playing on an employer's machine, say) to extremely serious (dissemination of viruses or other malware).

Formal Ethics

ACM/IEEE Code of Ethics

- Software Engineering Ethics and Professional Practices eight Principles related to the behaviour of and decisions made by professional software engineers, including practitioners, educators, managers, supervisors and policy makers, as well as trainees and students of the profession.

1. PUBLIC - Software engineers shall act consistently with the public interest.

2. CLIENT AND EMPLOYER - Software engineers shall act in a manner that is in the best interests of their client and employer consistent with the public interest.

3. PRODUCT - Software engineers shall ensure that their products and related modifications meet the highest professional standards possible.

4. JUDGMENT - Software engineers shall maintain integrity and independence in their professional judgment.

5. MANAGEMENT - Software engineering managers and leaders shall subscribe to and promote an ethical approach to the management of software development and maintenance.

6. PROFESSION - Software engineers shall advance the integrity and reputation of the profession consistent with the public interest.

7. COLLEAGUES - Software engineers shall be fair to and supportive of their colleagues.

8. SELF - Software engineers shall participate in lifelong learning regarding the practice of their profession and shall promote an ethical approach to the practice of the profession.