Ethics

CSCI 101
References

- Slides are heavily based on, and contain content from:
  Technology in Action Eleventh Edition by Evans, Martin, and Poatsy
Ethics

Ethics is the study of what is morally right and wrong

Business Ethics is the study of moral or ethical issues that arise in business settings.

Computing Ethics: The branch of ethics which focuses on the ethical use of computers.
10 Commandments of Computer Ethics

• Thou shalt not use a computer in ways that may harm people.
• Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.
• Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's computer files.
• Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.
• Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.
• Thou shalt not copy or use proprietary software for which you have not paid.
10 Commandments of Computer Ethics

• Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization or proper compensation.
• Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output.
• Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you are writing or the system you are designing.
• Thou shalt always use a computer in ways that ensure consideration and respect for your fellow humans.

Intellectual Property (IP)

• Intellectual property is someone's creations such as music, movies, writing, software...
• IP is protected by patents, copyrights and trademarks.
• Having this protection enforces people to pay for these creations. It is illegal to steal other peoples work, and furthermore it is unethical.
Copyright Infringement or Piracy

• Pirating is when you use someone else’s work without paying and giving them credit.
• This is a form of theft, it is unlawful, and unethical.
Example of Copyright Infringement

Taking a photo off the internet, and using Photoshop to remove the watermark.
Examples of Copyright Infringement

Stealing music is a very common form of copyright infringement.
Music Piracy Case

• A women form Minnesota was found to have over 1,700 tracks downloaded and shared to Kazaa.
• She was sued for 24 tracks in 2007.
• She didn’t pay, and kept going to court, the fines have risen to $1.5 million.

Music Piracy Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSbEF5X1BJQ
Software Piracy

The unauthorized copying of software. Most retail programs are licensed for use at just one computer site or for use by only one user at any time. By buying the software, you become a licensed user rather than an owner (see EULA). You are allowed to make copies of the program for backup purposes, but it is against the law to give copies to friends and colleagues.

A former Engineer from NASA knowingly bought pirated software to reduce cost, he got probation.
The man who sold the pirated software sold over $100 million pirated pieces of software and is going to jail for 12 years.

Ethics

Here’s a video from the office giving examples of unethical behavior in the workplace:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vstg5c3c3g8
Privacy

WHAT CAN OTHERS SEE?
Social Media and Privacy

• In todays society a lot more of your personal information is being exposed through social media sites like facebook.

• Your parents, your future employers, ... can go into these sites, and learn all about you.

• You can help prevent this by adjusting your privacy settings.
What can Future Employers See?

• It is illegal for future employers to ask for your Facebook password so they can enter your site.

• Additionally, it’s illegal for them to ask you about your race, your age, your religion, ...

• So if you don’t want future employers to see certain things, get rid of them or hide them.
Privacy at work

• In the workplace the company can track all that you do because you’re using work technology.
• They can read your email, monitor your phone calls, ...
• Hence, be careful what you do at work  
  – Don’t send personal email from your work account  
  – Don’t browse internet sites you wouldn’t want your company knowing you’re looking at
Privacy at Work

• A study by the American Management Association and the ePolicy Institute showed that out of the companies surveyed:
  – 73% monitor email, and
  – 66% monitor web surfing

From our textbook p. 375
Email Monitoring

• Over 50% of companies have fired workers for email, Net abuse

• Two women fired from a bank for forwarding on email jokes
Digital Footprint

• The trail of data that is left behind by users of digital services. (http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2007/PIP_Digital_Footprints.pdf)
  – Tracking certain websites you’ve gone to
  – The purchases you’ve made
  – The things you’ve “liked”
Targeted Advertising

• Companies sell information about you, e.g. what you’ve liked, or what you’ve purchased to advertisement companies
• This results in you getting advertisements that are directed at you
• Or getting spammed
Targeted Advertising Example

- How target knew a teenaged girl was pregnant before her family found out:
Big Data

• Big data is a blanket term for any collection of data sets so large and complex that it becomes difficult to process using on-hand data management tools or traditional data processing applications.

• So much information is being collected about our habits and other marketing information that it’s hard to contain, and sort through.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_data
Communication
SPAM

• What are the rules stating which type of emails are valid to send out?
• CAN-SPAN act of 2003 has these rules:
  – The subject line must clearly communicate the content included in the body of the email.
  – Emails cannot contain misleading “From” or “To” information. Domain names, email addresses and routing information needs to be correct.
  – There must be a way for customers to “unsubscribe” or “opt-out” from receiving messages. If a person opts-out the company has 10 days to stop sending them messages. This unsubscribe option needs to be available for at least 30 days after the email is sent.
  – All commercial emails must include a physical address.

http://email-marketing-service-review.toptenreviews.com/what-is-the-can-spam-act.html
Censorship

Censorship is the suppression of speech, public communication or other information which may be considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, politically incorrect or inconvenient as determined by governments, media outlets, authorities or other such entities.
Internet Censorship

• **North Korea**: All websites under government control.
• **Burma**: Sites that disagree with the government are blocked.
• **Cuba**: Only can access internet at government controlled access points.
• **Saudi Arabia**: Around 400,000 sites have been blocked
• **Iran**: People who express opposition to those who run the country are harassed or sent to jail
• **China**: Government erases inconvenient content.

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/02/05/top-ten-internet-censors/5222385/
Ethical Quandaries

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
You think your boyfriend is cheating on you. Your friend offers to put spyware on his computer so you can monitor his email, documents, and other activities on his computer. What do you do?
Licensing Keys

You just got a new job as an IT administrator at PaveTheWay Insurance. Your boss asks you to copy Adobe Photoshop onto 10 computers using the same licensing key. You bring up the fact that using the same key on all computers is a copyright violation. He says, this is how we do it here. What do you do?
Insider Information

You work at AwesomeSoft. They’re stocks have been sinking, and your dad is about to sell his stocks. However, you are working on a secret project and are under an NDA (Non-disclosure agreement) for a new phone which is going to blow all the other phones away and increase their market value tremendously. Do you tell your dad?
You’re being a little risky on your computer, and seeing if you can break into Winthrop’s grade system. You succeed. You realize that the security on the system is not strong enough, and that others could break in and change grades. Do you tell the school and risk the consequences of being a hacker?
Addictive Gaming

You are working for a company creating a highly addictive computer game. You have seen reports indicating that people have lost their jobs, and become sick because they don’t want to stop playing. Your boss asks you to conductive research on ways to make the game more addictive, what do you do?
Viruses

You’re company has a policy that your work computers are strictly for work purposes. During your break at work you choose to visit some sketchy websites. Next thing you know your computer became infected with a virus, which quickly spread to other computers in the network. The IT professionals are trying to find out what it is and where it came from. What do you do?
Confidentiality Agreements

You just got a new job at ITAdvances. You are going to be working on very similar work as what you did in NetsRUs. Your boss at ITAdvances asks you to talk about a secret project you were under an NDA for, saying no one will ever find out. What do you do?