Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

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Other sources:
Harris, Pritchard, & Rabin, 2009, Engineering Ethics Concepts and Cases, Wadsworth Cengage Learning
Julie Albertson, UCCS
www.ASME.org
“Software engineers shall commit themselves to making the analysis, specification, design, development, testing and maintenance of software a beneficial and respected profession. “
“In accordance with their commitment to the health, safety and welfare of the public, software engineers shall adhere to the Eight Principles”
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.
What can I do?

• **Consider all implications** – particularly those which may involve a “degree-of-harm”

• **Extend what you know** – obtain additional information and opinions to compliment your understanding

• **Make informed decisions** – by learning/exploring relevant facts

• **Do not forget or ignore your personal principles**
Typical pitfalls and concerns

• Not following Professional Society or Association guidelines

• Involving some aspects of plagiarism
  – Did I cite everything properly?

• Violating Intellectual Property or Copyright
  – Does this work belong to someone else?

• Unwilling to resolve or clarify misunderstandings

• Ignoring cultural issues and differences in guidelines

• Reluctantly or partially fixing known errors