

Professional Codes of Ethics

“Don’t be evil”

Agenda

- Why bother with codes of ethics?
- Engineering codes of ethics
- MD and Lawyer codes of ethics
- Case Study

What's the point?

- Without a professional code, an engineer could not object to doing something unethical as an engineer. They could only object personally and refuse to do their job.
- Enforcement of a code of ethics like this requires a majority to agree to it.

NSPE Code

- General Components
- Themes
- Examples

NSPE Code - General Components

- Fundamental Canons
- Rules of Practice
- Professional Obligations

NSPE Code - Themes

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

NSPE Code - Examples

Where do these codes apply in software engineering?

ACM Code

- General Components
- Themes
- Examples

ACM Code - General Components

- General Ethical Principles
- Professional Responsibilities
- Professional Leadership Principles

ACM Code - Themes

1. Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing.
2. Avoid harm.
3. Be honest and trustworthy.
4. Be fair and take action not to discriminate.
5. Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts.
6. Respect privacy.
7. Honor confidentiality.

ACM Code - Examples

Where do these codes apply in software engineering?

IEEE Code

- General Components
- Themes
- Examples

IEEE Code - General Components

- To uphold the highest standards of integrity, responsible behavior, and ethical conduct in professional activities.
- To treat all persons fairly and with respect, to not engage in harassment or discrimination, and to avoid injuring others.
- To strive to ensure this code is upheld by colleagues and co-workers.

IEEE Code - Themes

How does this code differ from previous codes?

IEEE Code - Examples

Where do these codes apply in software engineering?

Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct

- General Components
- Examples

Bar Association - General Components

- Client-Lawyer Relationship
- Counselor
- Advocate
- Transactions with Persons Other Than Clients
- Law Firms and Associations
- Public Service
- Information About Legal Services
- Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession

Bar Association - Examples

How might some of these rules be applied in practice?

American Medical Association - Code of Ethics

- General Components (Chapters)
- Examples

American Medical Association - General Components

- Ethics of Patient-Physician Relationships
- Ethics of Consent, Communication & Decision Making
- Ethics of Privacy, Confidentiality & Medical Records
- Ethics of Genetics & Reproductive Medicine
- Ethics of Caring for Patients at the End of Life
- Ethics of Organ Procurement & Transplantation
- Ethics of Medical Research & Innovation
- Ethics for Physicians & the Health of the Community
- Ethics of Professional Self-Regulation
- Ethics of Interprofessional Relationships
- Ethics of Financing & Delivery of Health Care

American Medical Association - Examples

How might some of these rules be applied in practice?

Challenger Case Study

