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
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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