



Scientific Writing, Integrity and Ethics VI

Introduction to Ethical Issues for Computing Technology

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UNIVERSITY

Reference

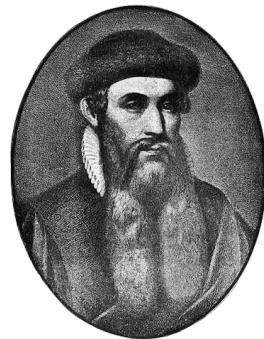
Sara Baase, Timothy Henry. Gift of Fire, A: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology (5th edition), Pearson, 2017

Michael Quinn. Ethics for the Information Age (8th edition), Pearson, 2019

The Pace of Change

In a way not seen since Gutenberg's printing press that ended the Dark Ages and ignited the Renaissance, the microchip is an epochal technology with unimaginably far-reaching economic, social, and political consequences.

– Michael Rothschild



Johann Gutenberg (1398 - 1468)

The Pace of Change

1940s: First computer was built.

1956: First hard-drive disk weighed a ton and stored five megabytes.

1991: Space shuttle had a one-megahertz computer. Ten years later, some automobiles had 100-megahertz computers. Speeds of several gigahertz are now common.

It is precisely this unique human capacity to transcend the present, to live one's life by purposes stretching into the future – to live not at the mercy of the world, but as a builder and designer of that world – that is the distinction between human and animal behavior, or between the human being and the machine.

– Betty Friedan

Unexpected: Cell Phone

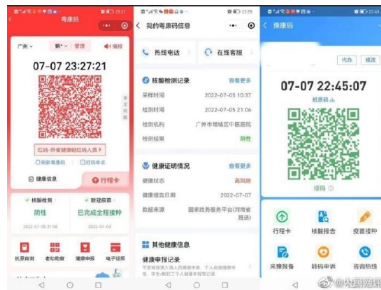
Location tracking raises privacy concerns.

Cameras in cell phones affect privacy in public and non-public places.

Cell phones can interfere with solitude, quiet and concentration.

Talking on cell phones while driving is dangerous.

Other unanticipated negative applications: teenagers sexting, terrorists detonating bombs, rioters organizing looting parties.



Kill Switches

Allow a remote entity to disable applications and delete files.

Are in operating systems for smartphones, tablets and some computers.

Used mainly for security, but raise concerns about user autonomy.

Change and Unexpected Developments

While all this razzle-dazzle connects us electronically, it disconnects us from each other, having us “interfacing” more with computers and TV screens than looking in the face of our fellow human beings. Is this progress?

Change: Social Networking

First online social networking site was www.classmates.com in 1995.

Founded in 2003, **Myspace** had roughly 100 million member profiles by 2006.

Facebook was started at Harvard as an online version of student directories.

Social networking is popular with hundreds of millions of people because of the ease with which they can share aspects of their lives.

Businesses connect with customers.

Organizations seek donations.

Groups organize volunteers.

Protesters organize demonstrations and revolutions.

Individuals pool resources through “crowd funding”.

Unexpected: Social Networking



希望我去世以后舅舅舅妈一定要照顾好我的姥姥姥爷、大伯叔叔姑姑也好好的照顾爷爷奶奶，我在这个世界上承受了太多了，所以请不要为我伤心呀，因为我放下这一切，是我新生的开始，对于我来说是一件非常好的事情，所以你们应该要替我感到开心哟，希望大家赋予和我所谓的“父母”，还有那些在网络上丧尽天良的人，得到他们应有的惩罚！手机相册里有一些证据和录音，希望警察叔叔在最后也可以替我为我的一生划上一个完美的句号。谢谢你们啦！我的账户百分之五十的积蓄是我自己上班挣来的，这些留给我的姥姥姥爷，因为他们两个只有我的舅舅了，这些虽然很少，但是我希望我的姥姥姥爷可以不被世俗所包围，希望他们余生可以放下一切，好好的弥补一下自己。我的爷爷奶奶还有很多孩子，所以，爷爷奶奶不要怪我哟！你们也要注意身体。剩下的百分之五十，也是很多网友资助我的，委托我的舅妈，替我捐给“石家庄市孤儿院”给那些小朋友们买一些漂亮哒衣服和好吃的。替我把这份爱心传递下去❤️ 很感谢这一生遇到的所有关心我的人，也和你们说一声抱歉，我辜负了你们。

写下这些，不奢求大家可以同情我的遭遇，因为在我努力的让我被悲伤掩盖，尽力的让大家看到我阳光一面的时候，把笑容展现给大家的时候，对我更多的是攻击，但是，希望这个世界上少一些内心黑暗恶毒的人。很喜欢大海，因为我感觉它可以装的下很多声音。人间疾苦，我已经受够了。

看到这里，谢谢你们了解完我的一生，写了这么多，只是想给自己来到这一生一个交代。把痛苦倾诉到大海中，也把生命还给这个世界。与其抱怨这人间疾苦，不如感谢给我一次体验疾苦的机会。及时的告别这人间疾苦，好了，我要开始我新的旅途了。也抱歉，因为我，还引起了那么多“内心黑暗”的人占用你们的时间，来丰富我的一生。

阳光照在海面，我也归于大海。从这里结束自己的一生，也带走了这个世界上最美的风景。

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Suicide note of Xuezhou Liu

Stalkers and bullies stalk and bully.

Lawyers weibo about court cases during trials.

Socialbots simulate humans.

Unexpected: Social Networking



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陈继志等恶势力组织违法犯罪案一 审公开宣判

广阳区人民法院 2022-09-23 10:33

发表于河北

2022年9月13日至15日，河北省廊坊市广阳区人民法院一审公开开庭审理廊坊市广阳区人民检察院提起公诉的被告人陈继志等恶势力组织违法犯罪一案。庭审中，检察机关出示了相关证据，寻衅滋事罪4名被害人的诉讼代理人、28名被告人及其辩护人进行了质证，控辩双方在法庭的主持下充分发表了意见，被告人进行了最后陈述。经依法通知，各被害人均表示本人不出庭参加诉讼。9月23日，廊坊市广阳区人民法院依法对案件公开宣判。

经审理查明，2022年6月10日2时40分许，被告人陈继志、马云齐、刘斌、陈晓亮、李鑫、沈小俊及李红瑞、刘某、姜某萍在河北省唐山市路北区机场路某烧烤店吃饭时，陈继志到正在店内用餐的被害人王某某、李某、远某、刘某某桌旁，对王某某骚扰遭拒后殴打王某某，王某某与李某进行反抗。陈继志、马云齐、刘斌、陈晓亮、李鑫分别在烧烤店内、店外便道及店旁小胡同内，对王某某、李某、远某、刘某某持椅子、酒瓶击打或拳打脚踢，沈小俊在烧烤店及旁边小胡同内威胁远某不得报警。经鉴定，王某某、刘

另查明，2012年以来，被告人陈继志等人还长期纠集在一起，在唐山市等地以暴力、威胁等手段，实施非法拘禁、聚众斗殴、故意伤害、开设赌场、抢劫、掩饰、隐瞒犯罪所得、帮助信息网络犯罪活动等违法犯罪活动，逐渐形成了以陈继志为纠集者，王晓磊等7名被告人为成员的恶势力组织。该恶势力组织为非作恶，欺压百姓，破坏当地经济、社会生活秩序，造成恶劣的社会影响。

廊坊市广阳区人民法院判决，被告人陈继志犯寻衅滋事罪、抢劫罪、聚众斗殴罪、开设赌场罪、非法拘禁罪、故意伤害罪、掩饰、隐瞒犯罪所得罪、帮助信息网络犯罪活动罪，数罪并罚，决定执行有期徒刑二十四年，并处罚金人民币三十二万元；对其余27名被告人依法判处十一年至六个月有期徒刑不等的刑罚，另对其中19名被告人并处人民币十三万五千元至三千元不等的罚金。陈继志等6名被告人对寻衅滋事罪4名被害人的医药费、护理费、误工费、伙食补助费、营养费、交通费等各项损失承担相应的赔偿责任。

部分人大代表、政协委员，部分被告人的亲属及群众代表参加了旁听。

In the 1980s, email messages were short and contained only text.

People worldwide still use email, but texting, QQ, wechat, weibo, tiktok, and other social media are now preferred.

Unexpected: Communication and the Web

Weibo/tiktok began as outlets for amateurs wanting to express ideas, but they have become significant source of news and entertainment.

Inexpensive video cameras and video-manipulation tools have resulted in a burst of amateur videos.

Many videos on the Web can infringe copyrights owned by entertainment companies.

Technology Challenges

Old problems in a new context: crime, pornography, violent fiction.

Adapting to new technology: thinking in a new way.

Varied sources of solutions to problems: natural part of change and life.

Global reach of Net: ease of communication with distant countries.

Trade-offs and controversy: Increasing security means reducing convenience.

Perfection is a direction, not an option.

There is a difference between personal choices, business policies, and law.

Honesty is the best policy.

Look Up from the Technology

Sometimes, we discuss issues and problems related to computer technology from a somewhat **detached perspective**.

We see how a new technology can create new risks and how social and legal institutions continually adapt.

Technology is not an immutable force, outside of human control.

People make decisions about what technologies and products to develop and how to use them.

People make decisions about when a product is safe to release.

People make decisions about access to and use of personal information.

People make laws and set rules and standards.

A Variety of Problems



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Someone sent you the contents of a teacher's email account; should you post it on the Web?

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All these problems can be restated the problem as a question in the form **Is it right to...**?

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e.g.,

Is it right to make a significant change in your company's privacy policy without giving customers or members advance notice?

What is Ethics

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Most ethical theories attempt to achieve the same goal: to **enhance human dignity, peace, happiness, and well-being**.

A Variety of Ethical Views

There are many different theories about how to establish a firm justification for the rules and how to decide what is ethical in specific cases.

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Deontological (or **nonconsequentialist**) theories: view certain acts as good or bad because of some intrinsic aspect of the action.

Consequentialist theories: view acts as good or bad because of their consequences.

Deontological theories (义务论)

Emphasize duty and absolute rules, to be followed whether they lead to good or ill consequences in particular cases.

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One example is: do not lie. An act is ethical if it complies with ethical rules and you chose it for that reason.



Immanuel Kant

Universality: We should follow rules of behavior that we can universally apply to everyone.

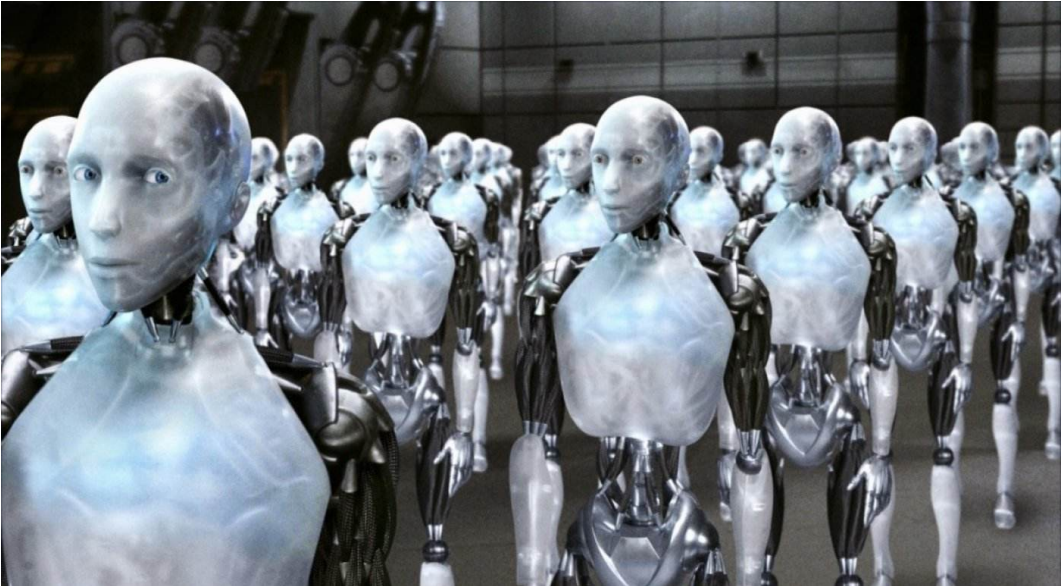
Logic: Logic or reason determines rules of ethical behavior, that actions are intrinsically good because they follow from logic.

Interacting with other people: One must never treat people as merely means to ends, but rather as ends in themselves.

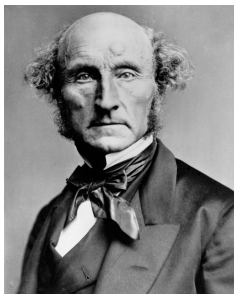
An Example

If a person is looking for someone he intends to murder, and he asks you where the intended victim is, it is wrong for you to lie to protect the victim.

Deontology in AI



Utilitarianism (功利主义)

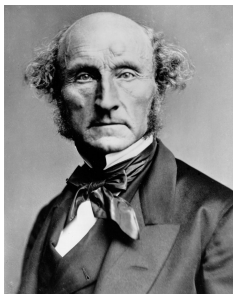


John Stuart Mill

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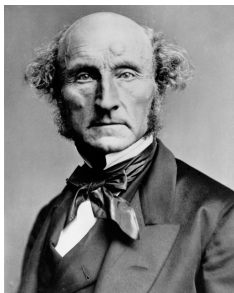
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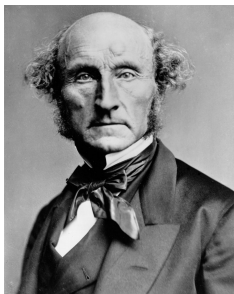
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An act is right if it tends to increase aggregate utility and wrong if it tends to decrease it.

Variations of Utilitarianism

Act utilitarianism: The utilitarian principle applies to individual actions. For each action, we consider the impact on utility and judge the action by its **net impact**.

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Rule utilitarianism: applies the utility principle not to **individual actions** but to **general ethical rules**.

Generally, a utilitarian would be more comfortable than a deontologist breaking a rule in circumstances where doing so would have good consequences.

Problems of Utilitarianism

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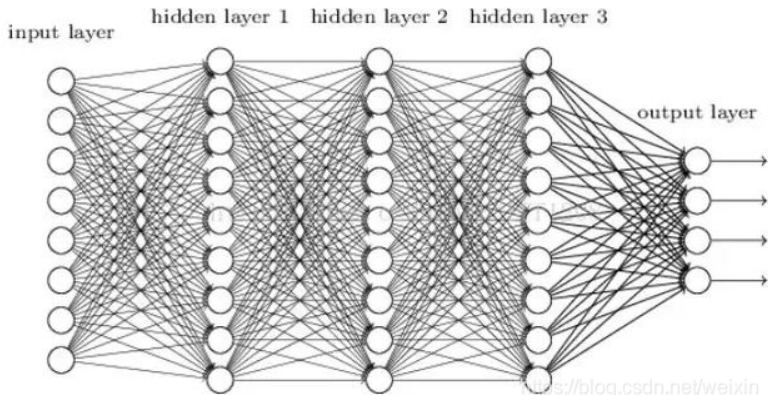
How do we quantify happiness in order to make comparisons among many people?

Should we weigh a thief's gain of utility equal to the victim's loss?

How can we measure the utility of **freedom**?

An Example

Killing one innocent person (perhaps to distribute his or her organs to several people who will die without transplants) or taking all of a person's property and redistributing it to other community members would maximize utility in a community.



Natural Rights (自然权利)

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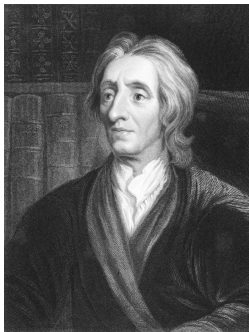
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Respect a set of fundamental rights of others, including the rights to **life**, **liberty**, and **property**.



John Locke

We each have an **exclusive right** to ourselves, our labor, and to what we produce with our labor.

We create or obtain by mixing our labor with natural resources.

He saw protection of private **property** as a **moral rule**.

If there is no protection for property, then the person who invents a new tool would be loath to show it to others or use it in their view, as they might take it.

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and property implies ethical rules against killing, stealing, deception, and coercion.

Negative and Positive Rights, or Liberties and Claim Rights

When people speak of rights, they are often speaking about two quite different kinds of rights, **negative** and **positive** rights. The terms **liberties** and **claim** rights are more descriptive of the distinction.

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life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness —Declaration of Independence

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- right to be free from assault,
- right to use your property,
- right to use your labor, skills, and mind to create goods and services and to trade with other people in voluntary exchanges.

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness —Declaration of Independence

Q: The right to access the Internet?

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Q: How about access to the Internet, as a claim right?

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Although we will not solve the disagreement about which kind of right is more important, we can sometimes clarify the issues in a debate by clarifying which kind of right we are discussing.

Golden Rules

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It tells us to consider an ethical choice we are making from the perspective of the people it affects.

We want people to recognize us as individuals and to respect our choices. Thus, we should respect theirs.

A Variety of Ethical Views

No simple answers

- Human behavior and real human situations are **complex**. There are often trade-offs to consider.
- Ethical theories help to identify important **principles** or **guidelines**.

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Do organizations have ethics?

- Ultimately, it is individuals who are making decisions and taking actions. We can hold both the individuals and the organization responsible for their acts.

Right, Wrong, and Okay

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Many actions might be **virtuous** and **desirable** but not **obligatory**.

Wrong and Harm

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There can be wrong when there is no harm.

Goals and Constraints

Our personal goals might include **financial success** and **finding an attractive mate**.

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Ethics tells us what actions are acceptable or unacceptable in our **attempts** to achieve the goals.

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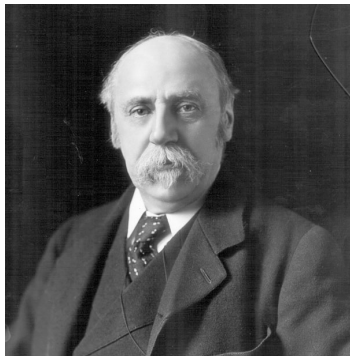
When discussing political or social issues, people frequently argue that their position is right in a moral or an ethical sense or that an opponent's position is morally wrong or unethical.

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When discussing political or social issues, people frequently argue that their position is right in a moral or an ethical sense or that an opponent's position is morally wrong or unethical.

It is a good idea to try to **distinguish** between actions we find distasteful, rude, risky, or ill-advised and actions that we can argue convincingly are ethically wrong.



John Fletcher Moulton (Lord Moulton)

Between 'can do' and 'may do' ought to exist the whole realm which recognizes the sway of duty, fairness, sympathy, taste, and all the other things that make life beautiful and society possible.

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Unfortunately, many laws fall into a category that is not intended to implement ethical rules—or even be consistent with them.