Univerza v Mariboru

FERI
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Accountability and professional codes of ethics

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Porto, September 24, 2026

AmiEs-2026

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Introduction

- Digital Age
  - In the last decades, changes of technologies, algorithms, approaches and consequently our decisions and life are happening rapidly
  - Many users are not able to understand the development and the results, neither responsibility - accountability for decisions that are made.

Introduction

- Digital Age
  - Engineers are following the requests for technological support (customers demands) and are mostly not thinking about accountability and ethical decisions (service of progress).
  - We have to create awareness of responsibility in the global community with various stakeholders, impart knowledge about responsibility, and research and develop instruments for responsibility.

Accountability

- Accountability in the digital age is not something we deal with when something goes wrong but rather a requirement that we must think about before, during, and after the selection of solutions and their implementation.
- Accountability does not mean blaming others but taking responsibility for making decisions and ensuring a safe and transparent online environment.
- Accountability is the awareness that is the only constant in a dynamic digital age, in which we must understand each other and ensure the development of contextual instruments, guidelines, and other policies.

Artificial Intelligence

- Artificial Intelligence is.... ? ....
- Presence in modern society
- Accountability
- Ethical principles
- Ethics and professional ethics education
- Awareness of responsibility, inclusion of cultural differences, education, policies and legislation

Professional Codes of Ethics

- Professional ethics determine the rules of how a person should behave towards others and institutions in the professional environment These rules are presented as Professional Codes of Ethics for individual fields and maintain the highest standards of professional conduct.
- Of course, the rules are not an algorithm for solving ethical problems. They are only a basis for ethical decision-making and a demonstration of responsibility for supporting the public good.

Professional Codes of Ethics

- Common characteristics of professional codes of ethics
  - Avoiding conflicts of interest
  - Violations of confidentiality, privacy, and the law
  - Providing knowledge for advancing technology
  - Prudent use of information
  - Maintaining the integrity of systems
  - Transferring fundamental ethical principles to computer professional activity

Professional Codes of Ethics

- Objectives of Ethics Codes
  - Inspiration
  - Sensitivity
  - Disciplinary
  - Awareness
  - Certification (optional)
  - Licensing (optional)
  - Accreditation (optional)
  - Ethics (optional)

Professional Codes of Ethics

- An effective code of ethics must meet the following key criteria:
  - The principles must be clearly and precisely defined, including specific sanctions for violations
  - The code must be comprehensive to prevent ambiguities or ethical dilemas in interpretation and application
  - The text must be written in a clear, understandable and accessible manner so all organizational stakeholders can easily comprehend and apply it in practice

Professional Codes of Ethics

- Examples
  - IEEE Code of Ethics
  - ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
  - BCS Code of Conduct
  - Code of Ethics of the Slovenian Society INFORMATIKA
  - IFIP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct













Professional Codes of Ethics

- IEEE Code of Ethics
- We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of the life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members, and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to conduct of the highest and professional manner and agree:
  - to accept responsibility in making engineering decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
  - to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
  - to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;

Professional Codes of Ethics

- IEEE Code of Ethics
  - to reject bribery in all of its forms;
  - understanding of technology, its appropriate application, and potential consequences;
  - to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
  - to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
  - to treat fairly all persons regardless of such factors as race, religion, gender, disability, age, or national origin;
  - to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;
  - to assist colleagues and coworkers in their professional deve and to support them in following this code of ethics.

IEEE

Rapid technological advancement – ethical norms

- Technology – rapid and nonpredictable
- Inclusion of broader public
- Social and cultural changes
- Problems of unethical actions, employee behavior, ethical awareness within organizations
- Ethical leadership

Conclusion





- Awareness
- Education for responsible work in a digital society
  - Projects like IMPACT
  - Courses like Advanced information security (FERI)
  - COILs like Leadership
- Membership in professional associations
- Experiences