

The Conscience of Computing Professionals: a Code of Ethics (something positive)

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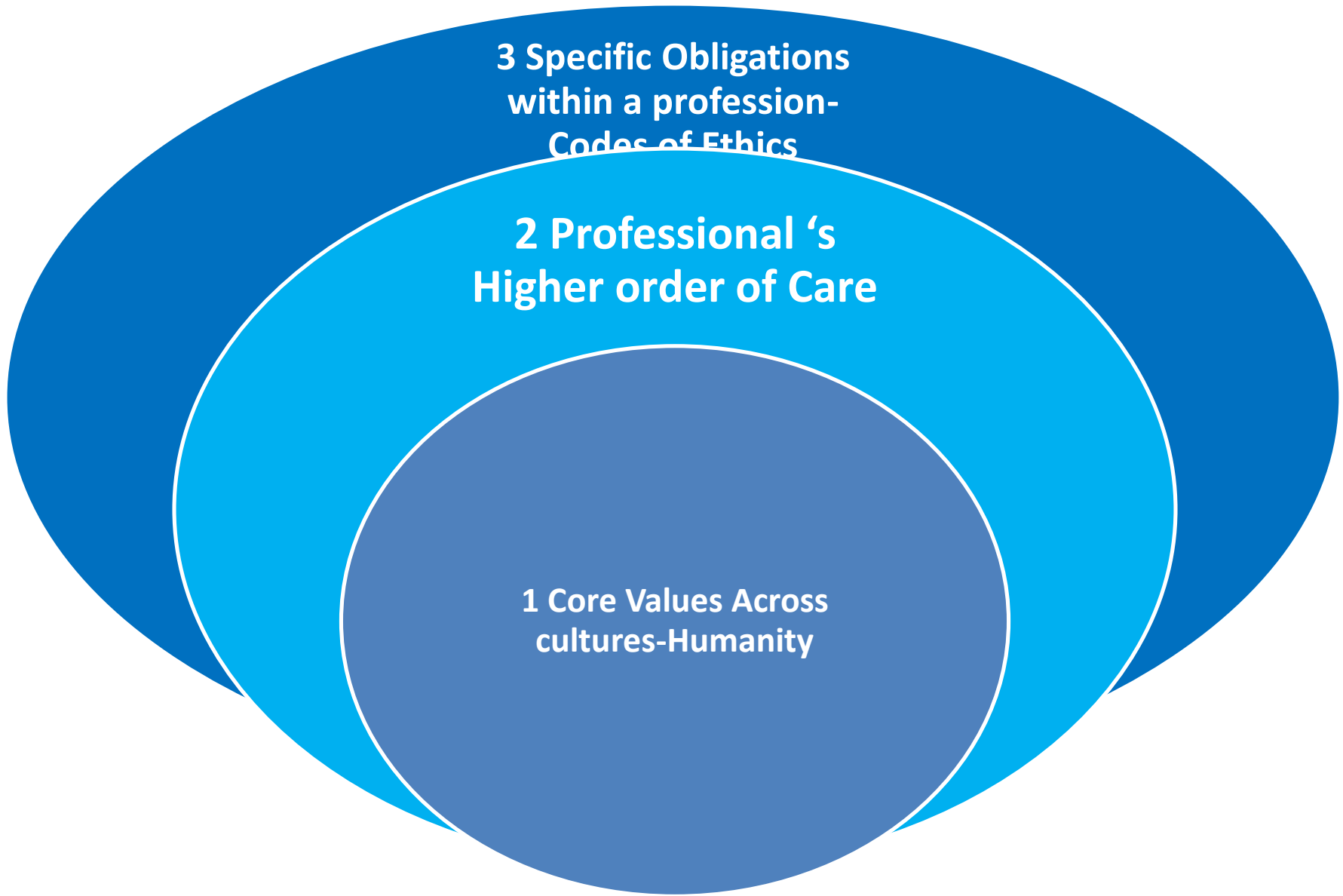
Ethics

- Behavior with a **POSITIVE or Negative** impact on society, its citizens and the environment (cultural and natural)
 - Minimalism- don't cause harm
 - Idealism- prevent harm

Professional Responsibility:



- ***“Profess” -> “Professional”...Medieval Roots***
- ***Special Rights and Responsibilities***
- ***As citizens:*** have values/ethics they share with everyone
- ***As professionals:*** benefit others, improve situation; Higher Order of Care
- ***As Computing professionals, in particular:*** practices unique to the profession



Core Values

- Core Values Across Cultures include:
 - Life
 - Happiness
 - Freedom
 - Ability
 - Resources
 - Security
 - Opportunity

HARM

Professionalism

- Social Contract
 - Autonomy
 - Society as a whole gains
- Higher Order of Care – SERVICE
 - Not self-serving
 - Profit is not the primary motivator
- **Ethics is fundamental to professionalism...**

Professional Values

- Be impartial
- Disclose information others ought to know
- Respect the rights of others
- Treat others justly
- Take responsibility for your action
- Take responsibility for those you supervise
- Maintain your integrity
- Continually improve your abilities
- Share you knowledge expertise and value.

Codes of Ethics

- Related to a Profession
 - global profession, with standard of good practice being largely the same anywhere in the world
- Instruct society about what to expect
- Express the conscience of profession (Globally)
- Guide & Justify Professional's decisions

– Ethics

- Behavior with a **POSITIVE** or **Negative** impact
- Must not inflict unjustified **“HARM”**
 - life, happiness, autonomy, freedom, security, resources, knowledge, opportunity ...

Professional SKILLS

- Ability to:
 1. ...identify potential ethical problems in a particular context.
 2. ...identify the cause of these issues, and stakeholders.
 3. ...determine alternate actions consistent with appropriate guiding principles.
 4. For each possible action, determine expected outcomes and reasons for taking or not taking that action.

Skills to teach in the CS curriculum (cont.)

- Ability to:
 5. ...select a workable solution and work through the situation, both technically or ethically.
 6. ...recognize responsibilities of computer professionals.
 7. ...communicate effectively your well-informed and well-reasoned positions on these issues.

Positive Professionalism

- Technical/mechanical skill and a higher order of care.
 - Context and extended stakeholders
 - Review and identify who is impacted positively or negatively .
 - Includes a broad obligation to society.
- “We can describe a professional as one who does what the client wants when it is appropriate, but who does the right thing always.”

Analysis of Potential Impact

- For each of stakeholder identified, consider how your proposed solutions might affect them.
- There are usually a variety of feasible solutions. Select the solution which does the least harm to core values.
- Specific Codes and “Rules of Conduct”

Ethics Codes Provide Direction

1. Consider fundamental principles, rather than blind reliance on detailed regulations.
2. Consider broadly who is affected by your work.
3. Are you treating other human beings with respect?
4. How will the least empowered be affected by your decisions?
5. Concern for the health, safety and welfare of the public is primary.

Role of Codes

- Not primarily about prohibited actions
- Encourage us and facilitate us being as good as we believe we are
- See our actions and decisions as part of and contributing to a broader social community.

- **ETHICS IS NOT (only) ABOUT
You (all) ...**
- ...it is also about the impacts our chosen actions have in the world.