

Future Ethical Challenges and the Task of the Professional

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Professionals?

- Still semi-professionals; not really counted as medical doctors, lawyers or engineers are
- We need to acknowledge *indirect* power on top of direct power
 - *Anyone* can write code – and they cannot be stopped, nor should they
 - As we heard in Simon's presentation – innovations come from a lot of places
- 40 professions? 60? (Lunch discussion)

Future?

- Future *will* be unknown. (see e.g. David Horner, various papers)
- We need to train for **styles of thinking** (along with what is up and coming), as that will stay (what is coming will often also go)
- Although we do not *know* the future, we can predict *some* uses of applications we are designing

Thinking models

- Compare: Engineering – “will this structure (of a bridge/building) hold?”
- Will this application serve the users and the targets?
 - The weakest are not worse off (Rawls)
 - Who is better off? (Stahl)
- What is our aim with it?
- What are the *foreseeable* consequences?
- Are they good for those who will use/be targeted by the system?
- (James Moor, just-consequentialism)

Specific ethical dilemmas?

- Can – and should – teach current IT-ethical questions
 - both to warn of the current situation, thus enabling taking it into account, and
 - to give examples which are relevant.
- Can – and should – look into potential future questions
 - Privacy, Security, Digital Divide, Views of humans, etc. (see Bernd's presentation)

Responsible development!

- Responsible Research and Innovation
- Value Based/Centred (Participative) Design
 - (See e.g. Stahl on the previous two)
- Part of the responsibility with complex systems always remains with the developer
- Ethics built into the system, not as a patch afterwards (See e.g. Don Gotterbarn on this)

Tools

- Education, education, education
 - Mandatory ethics and IT education in bachelor level IT professional studies
- Ethics work group with some punch
- Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct
 - Needs to promote ethical behaviour, not just ban unethical behaviour!
- Ethics certification... But, this means also a possibility to lose the certificate
 - Corporate certificate and individual professional certificate/accreditation?

Compliance requirements?

- Can exclude a company from membership if the code is broken?
- Can exclude an individual if they do not follow code of conduct?
- To get anyone to implement and follow codes, though, being ethical needs to be attractive to both the corporations and the individuals
 - Added value, reduces rework, etc. (see Don's presentation)

Methods

- Concrete methods to get developers interested
- Not methods to solve problems (first)
- Internet resources
- Education
- Informing
- Other, what?



Internet resources

- Information on what/where one can learn
- Courses, “MOOCs”, self-study materials etc.
- Decision support systems (e.g. Laaksoharju and Kavathatzopoulos)
- Cases
- Codes available
- Crisis centre, advice clinic
- Discussion forums do not seem to work, however (at least in Finland...)

Education/Informing the members

- Seminars on professional ethics
- Breakfast presentations in companies
- Peer learning within companies and between computer society members
- Through professional magazines
- Through scientific journals
- Approachable books
- Other, what?
 - See Don's Motivate –A Consistent Message slide...

Thank you

Action?

