Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

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ACM Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

1. Public
2. Client and Employer
3. Product
4. Judgment
5. Management
6. Profession
7. Colleagues
8. Self

http://www.acm.org/about/se-code
Public

- Software engineers shall act consistently with the public interest.
  1. Accept responsibility for your own work
  2. Moderate interests of all stakeholders with public good
  3. Approve software only if you have well-founded belief in its safety; disclose any actual or potential danger
  4. Cooperate in efforts to address matters of grave public concern
  5. Be fair and avoid deception in all statements
  6. Consider issues of physical disabilities, allocation of resources, economic disadvantage
  7. Be encouraged to volunteer professional skills to good causes

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.
  1. Provides service in area of competence; be honest and forthright about experience and education
  2. Not knowingly use illegally- or unethically-obtained software
  3. Use property only as properly authorized and with owner's knowledge and consent
  4. Identify, document, collect evidence, and report to the client if a project is problematic
  5. Accept no outside work that is detrimental to your primary employer
  6. Promote no interest detrimental to your employer or client, unless higher ethical concern exists

Product

- Software engineers shall ensure that their products and related modifications meet the highest professional standards possible.
  1. Strive for high quality, acceptable cost, and reasonable schedule
  2. Identify, define, and address ethical, economic, cultural, legal, and environmental issues related to the project
  3. Ensure you use appropriate methods on projects
  4. Follow professional standards whenever possible
  5. Strive to fully understand specifications for software
  6. Ensure specifications are well-documented and approved
  7. Ensure adequate testing, debugging, and review of software
  8. Ensure adequate documentation
  9. Treat software maintenance as professionally as new development

Judgment

- Software engineers shall maintain integrity and independence in their professional judgment
  1. Temper all technical judgments by need to support and maintain human values
  2. Only endorse documents you prepared or are under your control
  3. Maintain professional objectivity
  4. Do not engage in deceptive financial practices
  5. Disclose conflicts of interest to all concerned parties
  6. Refuse to participate in bodies in which you have potential conflicts of interest

Management

- Software engineering managers and leaders shall subscribe to and promote an ethical approach to the management of software development and maintenance
  1. Ensure good management practices; inform other software engineers of standards and security procedures
  2. Assign work by education and experience levels
  3. Ensure realistic quantitative estimates of cost, scheduling, personnel and outcomes
  4. Describe position accurately and fully when hiring; offer fair and just remuneration
  5. Don't ask software engineers to violate this Code
  6. Don't punish for expressing ethical concerns about project

Profession

- Software engineers shall advance the integrity and reputation of the profession consistent with the public interest
  1. Help develop favorable organizational environment
  2. Participate in professional organizations, meetings, and publications; avoid associations that lead to conflict of interest
  3. Support other SW engineers striving to follow this Code
  4. Do not promote your own interests at the expense of profession, client, or employer
  5. Obey all laws governing work
  6. Be accurate describing the characteristics of software
  7. Violations of the Code are inconsistent with being a professional software engineer
  8. Report violations of the Code to appropriate authorities
Colleagues

- Software engineers shall be fair to and supportive of their colleagues
  1. Encourage colleagues to follow Code
  2. Assist them in professional development
  3. Fully credit the work of others
  4. Review others’ work objectively, candidly
  5. Do not unfairly intervene in their career
  6. Get opinions of experts in other areas
  7. Assist others’ awareness of current standards

Self

- Software engineers shall participate in lifelong learning regarding the practice of their profession
  1. Further your SW development knowledge
  2. Improve your SW development skills
  3. Improve your documentation skills
  4. Improve your knowledge of standards
  5. Improve knowledge of this Code
  6. Treat others fairly, not biased
Avoiding Plagiarism
- Writing Across the Curriculum newsletter, Winter 2007, WSU.


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