

Professional ethics summary

John MacCormick, based closely on
Ethics for the Information Age by
Michael Quinn

Five useful ethical theories

- Kantianism
 - Do things that make sense as universal rules
 - Don't treat people as a means to an end
- Act utilitarianism
 - Perform individual acts that maximize total utility
- Rule utilitarianism
 - Act according to rules that maximize total utility
- Social contract theory
 - Use rules that everyone would agree to (if everyone followed them)
 - Rawls' difference principle: aim for "greatest benefit of the least-advantaged"
- Virtue ethics
 - Act in accordance with virtues such as kindness, courage, and loyalty

Mapping from professional virtues to Software Engineering Code of Ethics

- a) Be impartial
 - Clauses 1.02-03, 1.05, 1.07, 3.03, 3.12, 4.01, 6.05
- b) Disclose information that others ought to know
 - Clauses 1.04, 1.06, 2.06-07, 3.01, 4.05-06, 5.05-06, 6.07-09, 6.12-13
- c) Respect the rights of others
 - Clauses 2.02-03, 2.05, 3.13
- d) Treat others justly
 - Clauses 5.06-12, 7.03-05, 7.07, 8.07
- e) Take responsibility for your actions and inactions
 - Clauses 1.01, 3.04-08, 3.10-11, 3.14-15, 4.02, 7.08
- f) Take responsibility for the actions of those you supervise
 - Clauses 5.01-04
- g) Maintain your integrity
 - Clauses 2.01, 2.04, 2.08-09, 3.01-02, 3.09, 4.03-04, 6.06, 6.10-11, 8.08-09
- h) Continually improve your abilities
 - Clauses 8.01-06
- i) Share your knowledge, expertise and values
 - Clauses 1.08, 6.01-04, 7.01-02, 7.06