

## **Chapter 1: The internet, ethical values, and conceptual frameworks**

“Applying Ethical and Moral Concepts and Theories to IT Contexts: Some Key Problems and Challenges” (Frans A.J. Birrer)

### Learning Expectations:

To learn more about the applications of ethical theories in the study of computer ethics.

### Quote:

*“Many of the traditional theoretical black and white dichotomies in ethics lose their absoluteness when we turn to the real world, and ask ourselves how certain proposed principles would work out when they were used in a concrete social practice.”*

### Book Review:

There are a lot of ethical theories made by great philosophers and thinkers back in the days. Whom I personally favor in this field are Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Friedrich Nietzsche, Karl Marx, and Immanuel Kant. They have made formidable arguments in defining what is right and what is wrong. All are influenced by their own personal moral standing as philosophers.

The technological advancements specifically in the computing field have to be discerned and developed with ethical considerations. For example, the violence in computer games should be controlled and should only be played by non-minors. Another example is the widespread use of social networking sites like facebook. Facebook was banned in Syria and Iran because of employer complaints on employees using facebook applications while working. This issue has resulted into a degraded quality of output.

The application of ethical theories in the IT industry never rests. It periodically enters a phase wherein theories are modified if not eliminated. This process is to adapt to the fast-paced innovation of technology.

### Integrative Questions:

1. Name 1 ethical theory that is evidently used in the IT industry.
2. Name examples wherein an ethical theory is needed to resolve an IT issue.