

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

“Just Consequentialism and Computing” (James H. Moor)

Learning Expectations:

To define just sanctions to computer related crimes.

Quote:

“We want good computing policies that promote human flourishing, consequences are important, but only as long as the policies themselves remain just. Unjust policies will in the long run, both directly and indirectly, undermine the benefits of these policies no matter how good they are.”

Book Review:

“Don’t do unto others what you don’t want others to do unto you.” This is perhaps the most famous rule that advocate consequentialism. Just consequentialism means that a person deserves an appropriate punishment or sanction that will parallel the weight of his/her crime. Because of the computer’s “logically malleable” property, functions are easily customized to suit the needs of the people, whether it does or does not harm other individuals.

The issue on computer crime can be attributed to Kant’s Categorical Imperative. That is make sure that what you do will become a universal law. For example, you illegally copied some picture files from the company you are working at. This means that you don’t mind that the same will be done to you. By doing so, you are giving the go signal to other people to copy your personal files.

This part also discusses the moral basis of what is right and what is wrong and how can such acts be justified. Moor stated that *“The ends do not justify using unjust means”*

Integrative Questions:

1. Should utilitarianism be considered in this issue?
2. What sanctions would be just to persons committing computer-related crimes?