

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

“Reason, Relativity, and Responsibility in Computer Ethics” (James H. Moor)

Learning Expectations:

I expect to learn more about the role of computer ethics in today’s society.

Quote:

“Ethical responsibility begins by taking the ethical point of view. We must respect others and their core values. If we can avoid policies that result in significant harm to others, that would be a good beginning toward responsible ethical conduct. Some policies are so obviously harmful that they are readily rejected by our core value standards.”

Book Review:

The technology of computers are said to be “logically malleable” in the sense that it can be altered to cater to the needs of the society. Computers have been very flexible in providing solutions to different problems. It is widely used in education, businesses, researches and the like. The growing demand of computers is supported by the relatively growing supply of it. This calls for a further study of computer ethics to monitor the functions it serves.

The use of these technologies makes tasks informationally enriched. More improvements to human activities are associated with this tool. For example, the typical student way back before computers were used, resorted to the access of a library whereas, the student today can easily research through the internet and provide more information on the subject matter. A more profound approach is met through information technology.

Because of computers being logically malleable, computer ethics too, should be able to keep up with its pace. For example, there are a lot of standards and factors to judge whether a computer program is good or not. Not all people may agree to the same set of standards. Moor stated on his paper that: *“The core values provide standards with which to evaluate the rationality of our actions and policies They give us reasons to favor some courses of action over others.”* This means that there is a social norm in which all values meet in an intermediate area disregarding differences among other beliefs.

Integrative Questions:

1. Will formal education help computer users to be ethically responsible?
2. What simple ways can be done to be ethically responsible?