Ethics in Information Technology

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Objective

Cover the *legal*, *ethical*, and *societal implications* of *information technology*

Similar Topics

➢ Management Information Systems

➢ Principles of Information Technology

➢ Managerial Perspective of Information Technology

➢ Computer Security

➢ E-Commerce

Course Organization

1. Lectures (Ethics in IT)
2. Projects
3. Exams (midterm and final) and Grading

Course Contents

1. Overview of Ethics

- Introduction to ethics
- Ethics in business, and the relevance of discussing ethics in IT
- Philosophical approaches to ethical decision making
- A model for ethical decision making

Course Contents

2. Ethics for IT Workers and IT Users

- ➢ Importance of ethics in the business relationships of IT professionals
- ➢ Certification and licensing
- ➢ IT professional codes of ethics
- ➢ Ethical issues faced by IT users
  - o Software piracy
  - o Inappropriate use of computing resource
  - o Inappropriate sharing of information
- ➢ Support the ethical practices of IT users

Course Contents

3. Computer and Internet Crime

➢ Ethical decisions when dealing with security issues

➢ Classification of computer crimes and their perpetrators

➢ Implement trustworthy computing to manage security vulnerabilities

➢ Respond to specific security incidents to fix problems quickly and improve ongoing security measures

Course Contents

4. Privacy

- How the use of IT affects privacy rights
- Legislation that have addressed privacy rights
- Gathering the personal information using IT, to obtain or keep customers (or to monitor employees)
- The concerns of privacy advocates:
  - How much information can be gathered
  - With whom it can be shared
  - How the information is gathered in the first place
  - How it is used
- Concerns to the information-gathering practices of law enforcement and government

Course Contents

5. Freedom of Expression

➢ Growing use of Internet and issues related to the freedom of expression

➢ Examining the types of speech that are protected by constitutions

➢ Problems when anonymity can be used by adversary (e.g., unsuitable data for children and unnecessary business)

Course Contents

6. Intellectual Property

- ➢ What is intellectual property?
- ➢ Varying degrees of ownership protection:
  - o Copyright
  - o Patent
  - o Trade secret laws
- ➢ Plagiarism
- ➢ Reverse Engineering of Software
- ➢ Open Source Code
- ➢ Competitive intelligence gathering
- ➢ Cybersquatting

Course Contents

7. Software Development

- ➤ Process of the software development and the importance of software quality
- ➤ Issues that software manufacturers must consider when deciding "how good is good enough?" (e.g., software is safety-critical)
  - o Product liability
  - o Risk analysis
  - o Quality assurance testing and processes and standards

Course Contents

8. Impact of IT on Productivity and Quality of Life

➢ The effect that IT has had on the standard of living and worker productivity in developed countries

➢ The digital divide and programs that are designed to close that gap

➢ IT's impact on health care and healthcare costs

Course Contents

9. Social Networking

- How people use social networks
- Identifies common business uses of social networks
- Examines many of the ethical issues associated with the use of social networks
- Virtual life communities and the ethical issues associated with virtual worlds

Course Contents

10. Ethics in IT Organizations

- Ethical issues facing IT organizations
- Risks, protections, and ethical decisions related to whistle-blowing, and presents a process for safely and effectively handling a whistle-blowing situation.
- Green computing and related ethical issues
- Ethical issues in the areas of worker safety and fairness, environmental responsibility, and business efficiency (by code of conduct)

Textbook
Ethics in Information Technology 3rd
Edition, George W. Reynolds

GEORGE W. REYNOLDS

ETHICS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THIRD EDITION
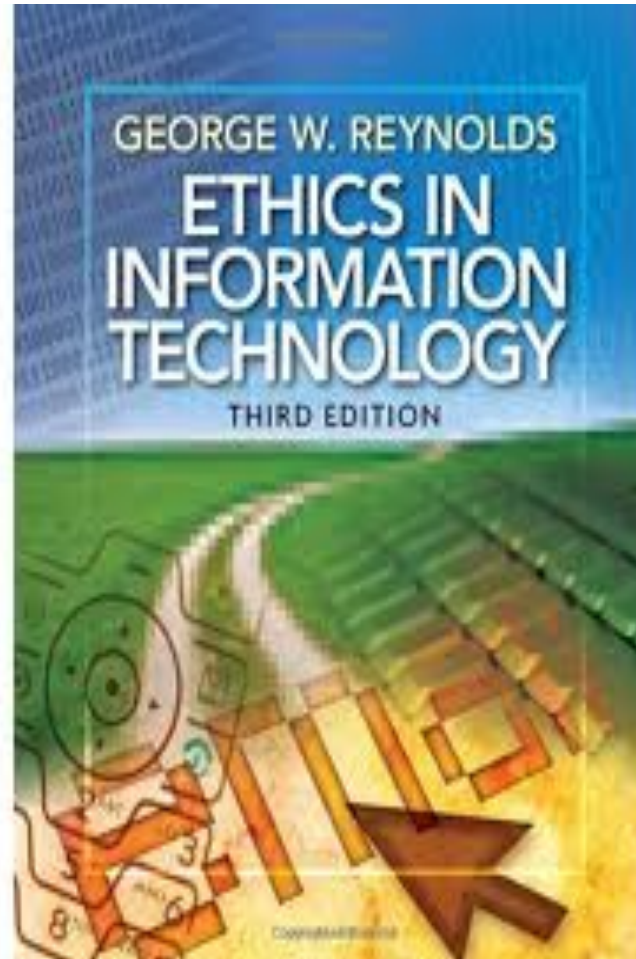
Reference
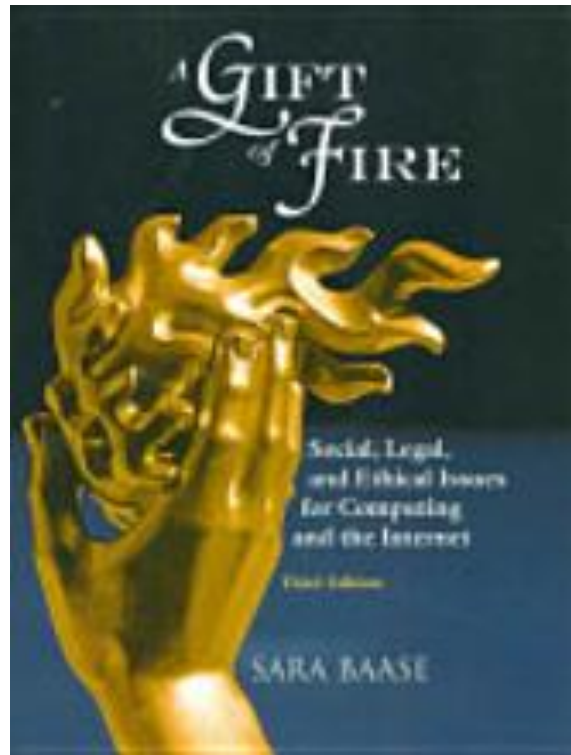
A Gift of Fire:
Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing and the Internet

Sara Baase

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Case Studies in Information Technology Ethics
2nd Edition, Richard A. Spinello
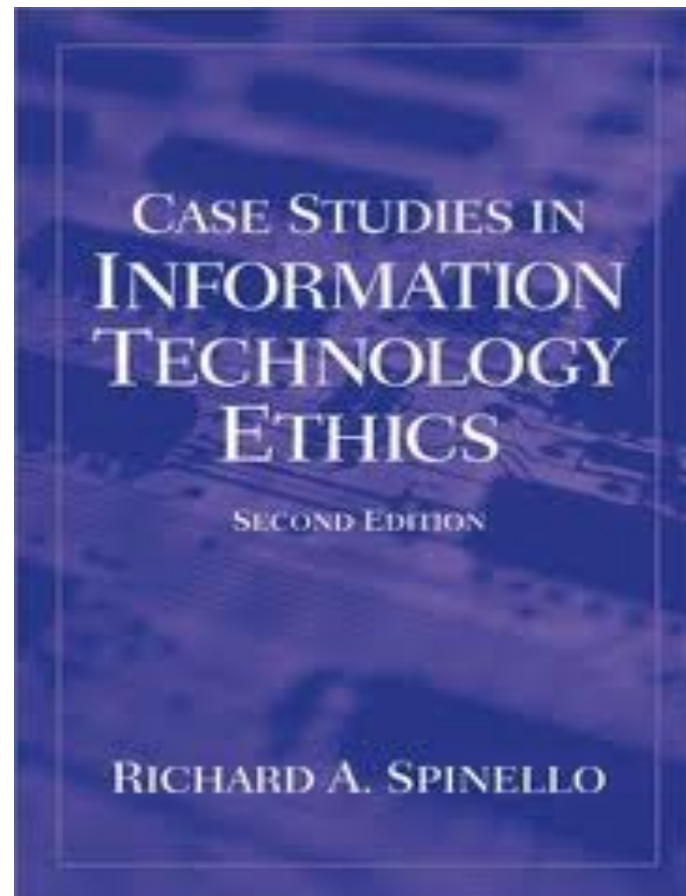
Projects

- Analyze/Presentation/Report
- Discuss ethical dilemmas
- Make your judgments
- Put yourself in the shoes of decision makers
- You will see some examples in lectures and news

Exam and Grading

1. Project Reports (Case Study) ~ 40%

   ❑ You should start looking for a subject from now

   ❑ Esfand 15th, 1392: Upload the list of your preferences (up to 5 cases)

   ❑ Esfand 17th, Proposal Discussion during the lecture: Definition of your project

   ❑ Report due by Ordibehesht, 31st

2. Written midterm and final exam ~ 60%

3. Selected Presentations ~ Up to 10%

Reference for Project