

Unit 22 — Computer Ethics

Reading: The 10 Commandments of Computer Ethics



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Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with determining what is right and wrong. Listed below are 10 commandments to help you understand computer ethics. Anyone working in the field of IT is going to encounter a lot of ethical problems. Why? Because computers are very powerful and IT professionals are like wizards controlling this technology. We all know from watching Harry Potter movies that wizards can be good or bad, and so can IT professionals. Non-technical people are increasingly dependent and trusting of information technology. If the next 20 years is anything like the last 20 years, the future is very bright for IT workers. This is why IT professionals need to study and practice computer ethics.

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Discussion Questions

Do you believe in studying computer ethics, or do you think it is a waste of time? Do you really think that IT people are like wizards who must decide whether to be good or evil? Is it okay to program a computer to do bad things just to make money?

In commandment #6 it says that piracy is dangerous and unethical. In your opinion, how is it dangerous and unethical?