

Chapter 1: Introduction to Sociotechnical Computer Ethics

Study Questions:

1. What is encompassed in the question “why computer ethics?” in other words, what more specific questions are included in the broad question?
Computer ethics is very important because without computer ethics we won't have any basis on what is right and wrong in the Information technology world. Knowing the definition of computer ethics will let us know what computer ethics is all about and its relation to other things in the world that is also related to IT. There are many kinds of ethics and computer ethics is one of them and we should also ask ourselves what is the importance of computer ethics? And its relation to our daily lives.
2. Give a concise summary of Moor's standard account of computer ethics.
Based on the text “According to Moor, the computer revolution will occur in two stages. The first stage is that of “technological introduction” in which computer technology is developed and refined while the second stage is the one that industrialized world has once recently entered.” Meaning he is the one who predicted what will happen to the world and the world of computer ethics were there will be a new technology that will be introduced to everyone and how it will be fully developed and equipped.
3. What is a policy vacuum? Give an example, and explain it using the standard account.
Based on the text “According to Moor, when computer create new possibilities, there is a vacuum of policies.” Meaning there are tons of policies that you have to consider when creating software you have many things to consider like the culture and norms. We may think that creating software is easy but publishing it is not and it will take through a lot process before it should be published and can be used by users.
4. What Is a conceptual muddle, and how do they get in the way of filling policy vacuums?
Illustrate with an example.
Based on the text “to illustrate a conceptual muddle, consider another case from the early days of computing computer software, where they figure out how to conceptualize the invention of computer software's.” With this they have to do everything just to make sure that the software will be published like they have to process the papers on publishing this software that they had created.
5. What is wrong with the standard account of computer ethics? Identify at least two criticisms, and explain.
Based on the text “the problem had to do with fitting computer software or prevailing intellectual property law, copyright and patent seemed the best possibilities” meaning they have to do all of these just to publish a software and this is related to computer ethics because you have to think and consider first if the software that you will publish is ethical or not and the second one is the “new inventors would have to get permission from a private owner to use one of the building blocks” this is not a good idea because in the computer world if you would like to create a software in your own means it will be great but having to ask permission to a private

owner takes a lot of time how can a software developer create a software with his own idea if he still needs to ask permission and they have policies I think it may be hard to create and publish a software that is fully developed and created by him there may be some revisions on it because there are policies that should be followed.

6. What are the two tenets of the view referred to as “technological determinism”? What is the STS critique of each tenet?

The two tenets of technological determinism is based on the text “first is the technology develops independently from society and second when a technology is take p and use in a society, it determines the character of that society.” This it the critique by scientist experts who has their own idea on what STS is all about their point of view are different from others. They said that developers of this technology are isolating their selves in their own worlds.

7. What is wrong with the thinking of technology as merely material objects?

It is wrong because even if it is developed through material object knowledge of a certain person is still used and without this knowledge that they have they won't be working or have a chance to use these invented technologies. They are not just material objects they also have their values and importance because without them our life won't be easier.

8. What is a sociotechnical system?

Based on the text “ STS is science, technology and society, we will develop a foundation for IT ethics using STS insights, concepts, and theories”

9. Choose a familiar technology and describe its values.

Technology of internet and how fast it is today without internet we will still be right long letters at a sheet of paper and send it to our loved ones in far places where they will received it after 3 days unlike wiring a letter in an email which will takes a minute or two for them to receive your email to them this is important because it has improve how fast people communicate with one another and it is really fast and convenient.

10. What is the difference between micro-level ethical issues and macro-level ethical issues? Give and example of each.

Micro level ethical issues focus on the minor issues of ethics for example in the internet where they copy and paste everything which is called plagiarism. While the macro level ethical issues is the study of a one big problem of a society or a major problem that they have to solve problems like these are the hacking of computer systems in a country their government has been hacked by some unknown people and has many virus on it.

11. Why is the study of ethics and technology needed? Why is the study of ethics and IT in particular, needed?

The study of ethics and technology is needed because the world is modernized today many high tech technologies are being developed and released and by using these we need to first learn how to use this morally we have to use this properly and not use it in bad things this is created for our lives to be easier not to destroy other people's lives. The study of ethics and IT in particular is needed because IT is in demand and many people are taking up this course and IT people are increasing that is why they have to study all of these to have a knowledge on how important it is and what is its relation to ethics.