

Syllabus

Course Overview

This course introduces you to the inherent ethical issues in the information technology (IT) profession with regard to cultural and human interaction in global and domestic issues. The topics of Web technologies, intellectual property, and cybercrime will be covered. Essays, research, and ethical codes are integral to the course.

In the course, we will explore the ethical and human dimensions of IT within organizations and in relationships with customers, partners, and society. We will do so using:

- Essays.
- Specific case examples.
- Research.
- Code of ethics project.

You will develop the ability to recognize and exercise leadership in significant ethical and human matters related to IT. In this course, we will focus on applying personal ethics to the Information Age. Ethics deal with thoughts and actions regarding right and wrong in societal and human behaviors, and how we decide which actions to take. The study of ethics helps to guide us when the issues are complicated, subtle, or difficult to analyze.

We will examine the current ethical issues that challenge you—personally and professionally—and the world of IT. By responding to questions and reflecting on other learners' responses, you will gain a clear and systematic understanding of these issues. There are overarching principles governing human behavior that have been successful for thousands of years. These principles have come from a multitude of disciplines and cultures over the centuries. We will call upon classical, as well as current, sources in philosophy to aid our understanding of ethics.

We will also investigate the concept of a code of ethics for information technologists. Some corporations have developed far-reaching corporate information systems (IS) codes of ethics. Some, however, have not—leaving employees without guidance about expected work behavior. There is some dispute concerning a general code of ethics versus a specific IS code of ethics. We will end the course with this exploration and your development of a code of ethics.

Thinking Habits

Learning to think like a 21st century knowledge professional is an important educational goal in the School of Undergraduate Studies. Capella University has identified ten [Thinking Habits of Mind, Heart, and Imagination](#) as essential for knowledge professionals both today and tomorrow. These habits are an integral part of learning in

the upper division Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree program and professional certificate programs. You will have the opportunity to think about and apply these thinking habits during your coursework at Capella.

We encourage all learners to reflect on the meaning of these habits as they relate to this course. In this case, how might these thinking habits apply to practical decision making for IT professionals faced with ethical dilemmas in the workplace?

Optional Exercise – Course Journal

Consider keeping a journal of your learning experiences during this course. The journal is a place to put your thoughts and feelings as you react to the content. This exercise is for you. We have found that keeping a journal throughout the course can enhance the depth of learners' experiences. You may wish to share your thoughts with your instructor; however, that is totally up to you.

Course Competencies

(Read Only)

To successfully complete this course, you will be expected to:

- 1 Evaluate information technology ethics and the implications for people and technological practices.
- 2 Evaluate ethical responsibilities of an information technology professional.
- 3 Evaluate the ethical issues of information technology found in the current literature and professional organizations.
- 4 Communicate effectively.

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): Learners who have received credit for IT3160 may not take IT3165.

Syllabus >> Course Materials

Required

The materials listed below are required to complete the learning activities in this course.

Integrated Materials

Many of your required books are available via the VitalSource Bookshelf link in the courseroom, located in your Course Tools. Registered learners in a Resource Kit program can access these materials using the courseroom link on the Friday before the course start date. Some materials are available only in hard-copy format or by using an access code. For these materials, you will receive an email with further instructions for access. Visit the [Course Materials](#) page on Campus for more information.

Book

Library

The following required readings are provided in the Capella University Library or linked directly in this course. To find specific readings by journal or book title, use [Journal and Book Locator](#). Refer to the [Journal and Book Locator library guide](#) to learn how to use this tool.

- Woodbury, M. (2000, June). [The bout of the century? Information ethics vs. e-commerce](#). *Ubiquity*.

External Resource

Please note that URLs change frequently. While the URLs were current when this course was designed, some may no longer be valid. If you cannot access a specific link, contact your instructor for an alternative URL. Permissions for the following links have been either granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

- All About ... Philosophy. (n.d.). [Personal code of ethics](#). Retrieved from <http://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/personal-code-of-ethics-faq.htm>
- Association for Computing Machinery. (1992). [ACM code of ethics and professional conduct](#). Retrieved from <https://www.acm.org/about-acm/acm-code-of-ethics-and-professional-conduct>
- Bamford, J. (2014). [The most wanted man in the world](#). *Wired*. Retrieved from <http://www.wired.com/2014/08/edward-snowden>
- EC-Council. (n.d.). [Code of ethics](#). Retrieved from <https://www.eccouncil.org/code-of-ethics>
- Gehringer, E. F. (n.d.). [Ethics in computing](#). Retrieved from <http://ethics.csc.ncsu.edu>
- Harbert, T. (2007, October 29). [Ethics in IT: Dark secrets, ugly truths—and little guidance](#). *Computerworld*. Retrieved from <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2552296/it-management/ethics-in-it--dark-secrets--ugly-truths---and-little-guidance.html>
- Illinois Institute of Technology Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions. (2011). [Code of ethics for IT professionals \(undated\)](#). Retrieved from <http://ethics.iit.edu/ecodes/node/3115>
- Illinois Institute of Technology Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions. (n.d.). [Using codes of ethics](#). Retrieved from <http://ethics.iit.edu/ecodes/using-codes-ethics>
- Velasquez, M., Andre, C., Shanks, T., & Meyer, M. J. (n.d.). [Thinking ethically](#). *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University*. Retrieved from <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/thinking-ethically>
- Velasquez, M., Moberg, D., Meyer, M. J., Shanks, T., McLean, M. R., DeCosse, D., ... & Hanson, K. O. (2009). [A framework for ethical decision making](#). *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University*. Retrieved from <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/a-framework-for-ethical-decision-making>
- Xanatomy. (n.d.). [Computer ethics](#). Retrieved from <http://www.cmpe.boun.edu.tr/~say/c150/intro/lit10.html>

Suggested

The following materials are recommended to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course, but they are aligned to course activities and assessments and are highly recommended for your use.

Optional

The following optional materials are offered to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course.

Library

- Bigger, D. (2014). [CompTIA Network+ 2014: Vulnerability scanning and penetration testing \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft, Ireland.
- Lachance, D. (2015). [CISSP: Social engineering attacks \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.
- Lobban, C. (2015). [A+ practical: Social engineering \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.
- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Footprinting and reconnaissance \[Tutorial\]](#).
- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Social engineering \[Tutorial\]](#).

External Resource

Please note that URLs change frequently. While the URLs were current when this course was designed, some may no longer be valid. If you cannot access a specific link, contact your instructor for an alternative URL. Permissions for the following links have been either granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

- Hackworth, M. L., & Shanks, T. (1998). [The case of the million-dollar decision](#). *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University*. Retrieved from <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/dialogue/candc/cases/million.html>

Projects

Project >> Team Project – IT Code of Ethics

Project Overview

For the course project, as a team, you will write a brief report on the importance of writing and adopting a code of ethics for your organization and develop a PowerPoint presentation that will include the components of the proposed code of ethics for your company. The report written by your team will be presented to the chief executive officer (CEO) and chief information officer (CIO). The PowerPoint presentation will be presented to top management and supervisors as well as the CEO and CIO. The course project includes evaluating ethical

responsibilities and providing a supporting rationale for developing an IT code of ethics. While working as a team, you will refine your material and create a finished team project by the end of the course.

Your research of existing codes of ethics in Unit 4 will be beneficial to this project. You will use precepts and principles from ethical thinkers to justify each aspect of your code. This proposed code of ethics should cover the key issues discussed during this course.

To successfully complete this project, you will be expected to:

- Write a well-written report that provides justification of why your company should incorporate an IT code of ethics.
- Develop an informative PowerPoint presentation that includes specific conduct that will be highlighted in your company's IT code of ethics.
- Identify ethical responsibilities of information technology professionals.

After your team has come to an agreement on the course project, the project manager will submit the final documents for this assignment.

- **Written communication:** The course project should be free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to current [APA style and formatting](#).
- **Number of resources:** Use a minimum of two references. This may include articles, interviews, books, and so forth. You can also include the course text, but it cannot be one of the two required resources.
- **Length of paper:** A minimum of three typed, double-spaced pages (not including title page, table of contents, and reference page).
- **Number of PowerPoint slides:** A minimum of four slides.
- **Font and font size:** Arial, 12-point.

Unit 1 >> The Need for Ethics – The Moral Cyberspace Landscape

Introduction

When we discuss ethics, we are concerned with standards of right and wrong. Our ethics are the moral principles by which we are guided. There are multiple reasons why ethics are of interest to information technology (IT) management.

Anything that affects people's lives to the extent IT does naturally gives rise to ethical issues. Managers determine how IT is used, and therefore they are responsible for the effects and ethical implications of its use.

The ease and anonymity with which information can be communicated, copied, and manipulated in online environments challenges traditional rules of right and wrong behavior. In this course, we explore the key issues of ethics, computer technology, and cyberspace through both theoretical and real-life case analysis.

Information Technology Ethics

Are IT ethics different from regular ethics? One challenge in IT ethics is identifying the ethical issues. Many people who perform questionable actions with computers do not see the ethical implications of their behavior. Is there an ethical difference between browsing through someone's computer files and browsing through his or her desk drawer? What is the difference between taking time from your workday to write a letter to a college friend and sending an e-mail to that same individual? Another challenge is the wide array of ethical dilemmas the computer presents. The computer user and developer routinely face ethical choices ranging from simply not nice to flagrantly illegal.

IT ethics should have strong links to policy and strategy. Once an ethical problem is identified, a policy or strategy should be developed to prevent the problem from recurring or to deal with it once it does.

Ethics in the Workplace

Most experts agree that there is no special category of IT ethics. Rather, there are ethical situations in which computers are involved. However, the capabilities of the computer often lend a special characteristic to workplace problems. For instance, the computer allows us to perform actions faster or to perform actions that were formerly difficult or impossible to do from one's desk. The widespread use of computers has made organizations and individuals increasingly vulnerable to its unethical use. In this unit, you will read an article from *Computerworld* that includes alarming statistics from recent studies regarding "the dark secrets and ugly truths" of ethics in IT (Harbert, 2007).

The Study of Cyberethics

IT ethics is a fairly new and developing field of study. In Chapter 1 of *Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing*, Herman Tavani guides us as we begin our studies of cyberethics. Tavani defines cyberethics as "the study of moral, legal and social issues involving cybertechnology" (2016, p. 1). In Chapter 2, the author takes us further into our studies by examining ethical theories that are specific to cyberethics.

A typical problem in computer ethics arises because there is a policy vacuum about how computer technology should be used. Computers provide us with new capabilities and these in turn give us new choices for action.

Often, either no policies for conduct in these situations exist or existing policies seem inadequate. A central task of computer ethics is to determine what we should do in such cases; that is, to formulate policies to guide our actions. Of course, some ethical situations confront us as individuals and some as a society. Computer ethics includes consideration of both personal and social policies for the ethical use of computer technology.

Using Information Technology

The blessings and benefits we can receive from IT are clear. We find ourselves becoming more and more dependent on this technology. What would life be without our daily e-mail and access to the Internet? Our brains are being forced to accelerate to keep up with the speed of technology, which is moving faster than we can think about it. But it is increasingly harder to keep track of, evaluate, and prioritize information. Each day that we hear about the abuse of privacy and incidents of identity theft, we find ourselves wondering who is in control of ethical policies. In this course, we examine the frameworks that will be useful to our thinking and eventual decision making about ethical issues in IT.

References

Harbert, T. (2007). Ethics in IT: Dark secrets, ugly truths—and little guidance. *Computerworld*. Retrieved from <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2552296/it-management/ethics-in-it--dark-secrets--ugly-truths----and-little-guidance.html>

Tavani, H. T. (2016). *Ethics and technologies: Controversies, questions, and strategies for ethical computing* (5th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Course Resources

Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing

[Ethics in IT: Dark Secrets, Ugly Truths—And Little Guidance](http://www.computerworld.com/article/2552296/it-management/ethics-in-it--dark-secrets--ugly-truths----and-little-guidance.html)

Learning Activities

u01s1 - Studies

Readings

In your *Ethics and Technology* text, read the following:

- Chapter 1, "Introduction to Cyberethics: Concepts, Perspectives, and Methodological Frameworks." In this chapter, Tavani guides us as we begin our studies of cyberethics. Tavani defines cyberethics as "the study of moral, legal and social insures involving cybertechnology" (p. 1).

- Chapter 2, "Ethical Concepts and Ethical Theories: Frameworks for Analyzing Moral Issues." In this chapter, the author takes us further into our studies by examining ethical theories that are specific to cyberethics.

Use the Capella University Library to read the following:

- Woodbury's 2000 article, "[The Bout of the Century? Information Ethics vs. E-Commerce](#)," from *Ubiquity*.

Use the Internet to read the following:

- Harbert's 2007 article, "[Ethics in IT: Dark Secrets, Ugly Truths—and Little Guidance](#)," from *Computerworld*.

Optional Skillsoft Resources

- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Social engineering \[Tutorial\]](#).
- Lobban, C. (2015). [A+ practical: Social engineering \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.

u01s2 - Course Preparation

Bloom's Taxonomy – Enhance Your Critical-Thinking Skills

Critical thinking is an important skill to cultivate for both your coursework and professional development. Many learners do not initially realize that there are different ways of thinking and levels of depth in understanding. Bloom's taxonomy provides a structure to help conceptualize these different levels. Awareness of different ways to approach information helps you move beyond basic understanding to more effectively analyze, evaluate, and synthesize important concepts. It also helps you to clarify expectations and provide an appropriate level of response for your coursework. Complete the media presentation [Professional Communications: Bloom's Taxonomy and Critical Thinking Skills](#), then review the [Bloom's Taxonomy](#) page on Campus to see how the levels are defined and to explore how this can help your academic and professional work.

Capella University Library

Being able to identify, analyze, and synthesize information is a critical skill. Many resources are readily available online, but it is important to use appropriate and high-quality information to support academic and professional activities. This process includes not only locating information but also ensuring that the information is sound, appropriate, and worthy of academic use. [Welcome to Library Guides](#) provides guidance for accessing and using the rich resources available in the [Capella University Library](#) and beyond.

Here are a few Capella University Library resources:

- [Tour the Library](#).

- [Searching Effectively.](#)
- [How Do I Find Peer-Reviewed Articles?](#)

Capella Online Writing Center

Visit the [Capella Online Writing Center](#) for a variety of tools to help you improve your written communication and presentation skills. You may also send papers to the [Smarthinking](#) tutoring service, to receive feedback and revision suggestions prior to submitting assignments.

Here are a few Writing Center resources:

- [APA Style and Format.](#)
- [Annotated Bibliography.](#)
- [Academic Honesty.](#)

Campus Resources

The following resources for learners are commonly used in Capella courses:

- [Time Management.](#)
- [Capella Career Center.](#)
- [Research and Scholarship.](#)

u01s3 - Project Preparation

For the course project, you will participate as a member of a team in which a paper and PowerPoint presentation are prepared and submitted. There are three components to the course project:

- Unit 3, Assignment: Team Project Timeline, Tasks, and Responsibilities.
- Unit 4, Assignment: Team Project Update
- Unit 5, Assignment: Team Project: IT Code of Ethics.

To achieve a successful project experience and outcome, you are expected to meet the following requirements:

- Read the course project description to learn the requirements for your course project, which is due in Unit 5. Examine the project's objectives and requirements, and view the grading criteria. Note that one of the criteria on which your project will be evaluated is the effectiveness of your written communication.
- Begin preparing for your course project by observing how upcoming unit assignments and discussions will be incorporated as its components. Refer to supplemental resources, optional readings, Web sites,

articles, and additional suggested materials to begin your research. Contact your instructor if you have any questions about the course project or the associated project components.

- You are strongly encouraged to begin working on the course project now and continue to work on it throughout the course.
- Completing the course project will require several hours of Internet and library research. Writing the paper and developing the PowerPoint presentation will take another several hours. Take time during this unit and in the coming weeks to begin researching and gathering potential references to support the final paper and presentation, which is due in the last unit of the course.

u01d1 - The Need for Ethics: The Moral Cyberspace Landscape

After reading the study assignments for this unit, give your initial reaction and thoughts to the study of ethics as it pertains to the field of information technology. In your response, include the following points:

- Describe the unique ethical problems you see in IT and the reasons why you are studying computer ethics (also known as cyberethics).
- Discuss current issues in IT that are relevant to IT professionals today.
- Share your initial thoughts on how ethics must be related to IT and the Information Age.

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, and be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

u01d2 - Ethical Theories and Cybertechnology

For this discussion:

- Reflect on the readings for this unit. Consider the issue of hacking, and network and security vulnerabilities, within a company you are employed (either currently or in the future).
- Describe how religion, law, and philosophy may each provide different grounds for justifying a moral principle for this issue.
 - How would you propose a new policy with your employer to alleviate this issue?
 - What key issues would you include in your justification?

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

u01d3 - The Secrets and Truths About IT Ethics

Review Harbert's 2007 article, "Ethics in IT: Dark Secrets, Ugly Truths—and Little Guidance," which you were assigned in this unit. This article looks at ethics in IT and the policies that govern them. It considers several questions governing IT ethics. After reviewing the article, reflect on the following:

- What are your thoughts about the article?
- What really caught your attention?
- What type of concerns or issues did you gather from the article that may be common in other organizations?
- Do you believe some of the issues that were mentioned in the article happen in an organization where you are or have been employed? Explain.
- Describe why it is important for businesses and organizations to provide employees with clear guidelines regarding IT and computer usage.
- What other comments, concerns, or thoughts do you have about this article or about IT ethics in general?

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Unit 2 >> Privacy, Ethical Framework, and Developing a Personal Code of Ethics

Introduction

In this unit, using Chapter 3 of Tavani's text, *Ethics and Technology*, we will examine the critical thinking and reasoning skills that are necessary for evaluating cyberethic issues. Tavani will guide us through the process of constructing logical and valid arguments, identifying fallacious arguments, and presenting arguments. In Chapter 5, we identify some privacy issues involved in cyberspace. Tavani will introduce us to some current issues involving data mining, search engines, and the importance of privacy in cyberspace.

We will also read two articles pertaining to the importance of developing and maintaining a framework for ethical decision making. These articles are from the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. The center is a resource for people and organizations that want to apply an ethical approach to critical issues.

Also in this unit, we will research issues in cyberethics. We will examine issues that we may encounter in our personal and professional lives.

Learning Activities

u02s1 - Studies

Readings – Required

In your *Ethics and Technology* text, read the following:

- Chapter 3, "Critical Reasoning Skills for Evaluating Disputes in Cyberethics." In this chapter, we will examine the critical thinking skills that are necessary for evaluating cyberethics issues. Tavani will guide us through the process of constructing logical and valid arguments, identifying fallacious arguments, and presenting arguments.
- Chapter 5, "Privacy and Cyberspace." We will identify some privacy issues involved in cyberspace. Tavani will introduce us to current issues involving data mining, search engines, and the importance of privacy in cyberspace.

Remember, your e-books are available for reading via VitalSource Bookshelf. You can access Bookshelf from the left **Course Tools** menu or via the optional downloaded application.

Use the Internet to read the following articles:

- Velasquez et al.'s 2009 article, "[A Framework for Ethical Decision Making](#)."
- Velasquez, Andre, Shanks, and Meyer's article, "[Thinking Ethically](#)."

The above articles pertain to the importance of developing and maintaining a framework for ethical decision making. They are from the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. The center is a resource for people and organizations that want to apply an ethical approach to critical issues.

- All About ... Philosophy's article "[Personal Code of Ethics](#)".

Readings – Optional

Use the Internet to read the following:

- Hackworth and Shanks's 1998 article, "[The Case of the Million-Dollar Decision](#)," from the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.

Optional Skillsoft Resources

- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Footprinting and reconnaissance \[Tutorial\]](#).
- Lobban, C. (2015). [A+ practical: Social engineering \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.

u02a1 - Research Report on IT Ethics

For this assignment, you will research an issue related to information technology ethics. You may want to select a topic you feel will have an impact on your professional life. Your paper will be a minimum of three pages long (not including a title page, table of contents, and reference page). You must have a minimum of three references, cited using current APA guidelines. Papers that do not meet these requirements will receive point deductions.

Report Requirements

1. Evaluate an issue related to cyberethics.
2. Evaluate the implications of ethical issues for people and for technological practices.
3. Demonstrate effective communication of facts, research, analyses, and opinions regarding issues in information technology ethics.

4. Follow APA style and format guidelines for resources and citations, and create a document that is clearly written and generally free of grammatical errors.

Please refer to the Research Report on IT Ethics Scoring Guide for more information on how you will be graded.

Potential Topics

There are many options to pursue. Here are some possibilities:

- Access or digital divide.
- Legal liability or accountability.
- The importance of an organizational code of ethics.
- Fair information practice principles.
- Privacy protection.
- Electronic medical records/HIPAA.
- Copyrights.
- The role of cookies.
- Data mining, property rights.
- Hackers and hacking.
- Criminal behavior on the Internet.
- Global issues.
- Policy approaches (for example, privacy policies or employer policies related to cyberethics).
- Social implications and social values.
- Laws and the legal system pertaining to IT.
- Whistle-blowing.
- Workplace monitoring.
- Viruses.
- Social networks.
- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).
- Biometric technology.
- Social media issues.
- You may want to choose a current topic that is trending in IT.

Once the paper is submitted, please open the link to make sure it opens in the correct format and that you have posted the final version—the one you want graded.

Course Resources

[APA Style and Format](#)

u02d1 - Biometric Technologies and Privacy

For this discussion:

- Discuss arguments for and against the use of biometric technologies for security, especially in airports and large stadiums.
 - Should biometric technologies, such as face recognition programs and iris scanners, be used in public places to catch criminals?
 - How can biometric technologies impact privacy issues in our society today?
- Discuss your support or nonsupport for biometric technologies.

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Style and Format](#)

u02d2 - Developing a Personal Code of Ethics

One of the most important things that a person can do is to develop a personal code of ethics. After reading "Personal Code of Ethics," reflect on, and respond to, the following prompts:

- What do you feel is important to include in a personal code of ethics?
- What would you include in your personal code of ethics?
- What would you include in your personal code of ethics that includes potential IT issues that you may be confronted with as an IT professional?

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[Personal Code of Ethics](#)

[APA Style and Format](#)

Unit 3 >> Ethical and Legal Aspects of Web and Converging Technologies

Introduction

In Unit 3, we will look at issues related to regulating commerce and speech in cyberspace, as well as ethical aspects of Web technologies.

In Chapter 9 of the textbook, Tavani focuses on some of the arguments for censorship of certain kinds of speech in cyberspace. Related to this, we are introduced to the issues of electronic spam, the assignment of Internet domain names, and the practices affecting hyperlinking and misuse of HTML metatags.

Chapter 12 introduces us to ethical aspects of emerging and converging technologies. We look at how these new technologies affect us in our day-to-day lives. Tavani discusses key social and ethical issues that arise because of technological convergence, including ambient intelligence, bioinformatics, and nanocomputing. Also reviewed are some of the implications that ongoing developments in artificial intelligence have for our moral framework.

Learning Activities

u03s1 - Studies

Readings

In your *Ethics and Technology* text, read the following:

- Chapter 9, "Regulating Commerce and Speech in Cyberspace." Tavani focuses on some of the arguments for censorship of certain kinds of speech in cyberspace. Related to this, we are introduced to issues around electronic spam, the assignment of Internet domain names, and the practices affecting hyperlinking and misuse of HTML metatags.
- Chapter 12, "Ethical Aspects of Emerging and Converging Technologies." This chapter introduces us to ethical aspects of emerging and converging technologies. We look at how these new technologies affect us in our day-to-day lives. Tavani discusses key social and ethical issues that arise because of technological convergence, including ambient intelligence, bioinformatics, and nanocomputing. Also reviewed are some of the implications that ongoing developments in artificial intelligence have for our moral framework.

Use the Internet to read the following:

- Bamford's 2014 article, "[The Most Wanted Man in the World](#)," from *Wired*.

Optional Skillsoft Resources

- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Social engineering \[Tutorial\]](#).
- Bigger, D. (2014). [CompTIA Network+ 2014: Vulnerability scanning and penetration testing \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.

u03a1 - Team Project Timeline, Tasks, and Responsibilities

For the final assignment of the course project, due in Unit 5, you will write, as a team, a brief report on the importance of writing and adapting a code of ethics for your organization and develop a PowerPoint presentation that will include the components of the proposed code of ethics for your company. This will be your final assignment of the course, Team Project: IT Code of Ethics. The report will be written as if to be presented to the CEO and CIO of the organization. The PowerPoint presentation will be presented to top management and supervisors as well as the CEO and CIO.

Your instructor will set up a discussion area in the group area in the courseroom. At this time, locate the team that you are assigned to for the course project and contact your team members.

For the Unit 3 assignment, begin by:

- Establishing some rules for the team.
- Developing a brief project plan.
- Defining team roles and assignments with deadline dates.
- Building a constructive climate by using good communication practices.

Use the group discussion area with your team to complete your tasks, responsibilities, and timeline documentation. Your team will establish who will be the project manager (PM). This can be done by consensus, nomination, or by volunteering.

Primarily, the goal of the Unit 3 assignment is to develop a task list for the project. For a successful assignment, complete the following:

- Determine who will be the project manager, or leader, for your team. This person will submit the final components (report and PowerPoint) for the Unit 5 assignment as well as the required assignment for Unit 3.
- Determine the strategy with which you will complete your team project. This includes the tasks that will be completed for the paper and PowerPoint presentation.
- Document specific guidelines and responsibilities for each team member to ensure a functional team.
- Determine the timeline in which the tasks and final project will be completed.
- Include other issues that are integral to the success of your team project.

As a team, start to plan your paper by doing the following:

- Review the overall project requirements in the course project description.
- Determine the tasks that need to be done to complete your paper.
- Determine the responsibilities of each team member. You may decide to assign various pieces of the assignment at this time. You may want to consider assigning some team members to the report and others to the PowerPoint.

Since the final project assignment is due in Unit 5, it is important for your team to organize the tasks and activities as soon as possible. Organization helps teams identify all the issues that will be involved in the project.

It is recommended that your team post a draft of the Unit 3 project component by Friday in your group discussion area. By doing this, team members can provide feedback for improving this paper and the updates can be completed prior to submitting. This project component is due by Sunday evening and must be submitted by the project manager to the instructor.

Assignment Submission

- **The project manager** will submit a document with the names of all team members. Included in the document will be the responsibilities of each team and the due dates. The paper should be 1–3 pages. This paper does not require APA citations.
- **Everyone else on the team** will submit a short document stating what he or she has contributed to the group effort thus far. This paper does not require APA citations but must be written in a professional manner.

u03d1 - Legal and Moral Issues in IT: Patriot or Traitor?

Consider the situation of Edward Snowden that you read about in the article by James Bamford, "The Most Wanted Man in the World."

- Describe your opinion on this issue.
 - Do you feel that Edward Snowden is a whistle-blower and a patriot or is he a traitor?
 - How do you feel about his current situation of living in Russia and not returning to the United States?
 - Do you believe he should be imprisoned or honored?

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.

- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Style and Format](#)

[The Most Wanted Man in the World](#)

u03d2 - Web Technologies: Free Speech Versus Censorship

In Chapter 9 of Tavani's text, we studied the issue of free speech versus censorship. For this discussion, respond to the following:

- How do you feel this issue fits in with the "world" wide Web?
- Should free speech be considered when it comes to postings that are filled with hate speech?
- What happens when hate speech is directed at a certain race, ethnic group, or religion?
- What about sexting and pornography? Should these activities be filtered in some way or should censorship be totally abandoned to the issue of free speech?

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.

- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Style and Format](#)

Unit 4 >> The Digital Divide and Professional Code of Ethics

Introduction

Many professional societies have codes of ethics that guide the behavior of their membership. Because the field of IT is fairly new and evolving, the codes that will guide the IT professional are in the process of being developed.

Beginnings of a Strong Foundation

Literature in the field of professional IT ethics is beginning to lay a strong foundation for a high degree of professionalism. For example:

- Consultants may only accept projects for which they are qualified.
- Consultants may only accept work where they are able to significantly help the client.

What might happen if a consultant did not turn down a project that might be inappropriate from any standpoint? For example, in the middle of data gathering for a team-building session, what if the manager who had hired you wanted you to collect data that would support firing a specific individual? What if a client asks you to do something unethical or covert? Is it ethical to take the client's money?

Individual Code of Ethics

Many professionals establish individual codes of ethics to follow as they do business, reminding them that putting their name on a project puts their reputations on the line. In the event of an error by the IT professional, the

client should be informed immediately and the error resolved. In the case of a financial loss, if it is the consultant's fault, the consultant should make immediate restitution. At this time, you should reflect on your own personal code of ethics you developed in Unit 2. This will help you in researching other professional codes.

Join Professional Organizations

It is a good idea for budding consultants to join and become active in professional organizations and associations as a way of staying current in their fields. Attend annual meetings and conferences, and volunteer for a committee in order to work and stay in touch with other professionals.

Involvement with other professionals and taking responsibility are vital to making progress. Many of the detrimental effects of IT are caused by individuals or organizations that do not accept ethical responsibility for their actions. Like other powerful technologies, IT possesses the potential for great harm or great good for all humankind. If managers, end users, and IS professionals accept their ethical responsibilities, then IT can help make this world a better place for all of us.

Learning Activities

u04s1 - Studies

Readings

In your *Ethics and Technology* text, read the following:

- Chapter 4, "Professional Ethics, Codes of Conduct, and Moral Responsibility." Many professional societies have codes of ethics that guide the behavior of their membership. Because the field of IT is fairly new and evolving, the codes that will guide the IT professional are in the process of being developed.
- Chapter 10, "The Digital Divide, Democracy, and Work." This chapter looks at issues we need to consider that cut across social categories, ranging from concerns about social equity and inclusion to issues affecting employment and work.

Because so many IT departments and organizations are developing codes of ethics, it is important to review some of these codes to gain an understanding of ethical codes. Read the following codes of ethics in the IT field, and research a few examples you find on your own:

- Illinois Institute of Technology Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions', "[Using Codes of Ethics](#)."
- Illinois Institute of Technology Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions', "[Code of Ethics for IT Professionals \(Undated\)](#)."
- Xanatomy's, "[Computer Ethics](#)."
- The Association for Computing Machinery's, "[ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#)."
- E. F. Gehringer's, "[Ethics in Computing](#)."
- EC-Council's, "[Code of Ethics](#)."

Optional Skillsoft Resources

- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Social engineering \[Tutorial\]](#).
- Lobban, C. (2015). [A+ practical: Social engineering \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.

u04a1 - Team Project Update

Your course project is due next week. For this assignment, you are to give an update on the progress for your team. **This is an individual assignment.** Everyone in the group will submit his or her own document.

Write a one-page paper that addresses the following:

- Describe your team's progression for the course project.
- Specifically describe your role for the course project.
- Has the communication been acceptable?
- Describe how challenges have been addressed by your team.
- Describe your contribution to the team project thus far.

This paper does not need to have APA formatting but must be written in a clear and professional manner.

u04d1 - Codes of Ethics Comparison

A code of ethics is becoming an essential part of many IT departments within organizations, as well as across companies, organizations, and society. After reading and analyzing the codes of ethics from the studies activity earlier in this unit and researching other examples, address the following for this discussion:

- What similarities did you find in the resources?
- What differences did you note in the various codes that you reviewed?
- Discuss what you think are important to include in a code of ethics for IT professionals.

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59

CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.

- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

[Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide](#)

[APA Style and Format](#)

[Code of Ethics for IT Professionals](#)

[Using Codes of Ethics](#)

[Computer Ethics](#)

[Code of Ethics](#)

[ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#)

[Ethics in Computing](#)

u04d2 - The Digital Divide

For this discussion, respond to the following prompts:

- What obligations does the United States have, as a democratic nation concerned with guaranteeing equal opportunities for all its citizens, to ensure that all Americans have full access to the Internet? Keep in mind that many elderly and impoverished people in the United States are still lacking Internet access.
- Does the United States also have obligations to developing countries to ensure that they have global access to the Internet?
 - If so, who should pay for the development of technology for Internet access?

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note that your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. On 11:59:59 CST on Sunday of this week, please post a response post to one of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Style and Format](#)

Unit 5 >> Intellectual Property, Cybercrime, and Final Reflections

Introduction

In Unit 5, we will investigate issues of cybercrime and cyber-related crime. We will also determine the differences between cybercrime and cyber-related crime. We will examine hacking and cracking, identity theft, corporate espionage, and tools for combating cybercrime. We will review the three categories of cybercrime:

- Cyberpiracy.
- Cybertrespass.
- Cybervandalism.

We will also examine intellectual property disputes in cyberspace. We will examine intellectual property and copyright laws as they apply to digital media and software piracy. And we will review the movement of open source software.

Course Resources

Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing

Learning Activities

u05s1 - Studies

Readings

In your *Ethics and Technology* text, read the following:

- Chapter 7, "Cybercrime and Cyber-Related Crimes." In this chapter, Tavani describes issues related to cybercrime and cyber-related crime. This chapter also helps us determine the differences between cybercrime and cyber-related crime. We will examine hacking and cracking, identity theft, corporate espionage, and tools for combating cybercrime. We will review the three categories of cybercrime:
 - Cyberpiracy.
 - Cybertrespass.
 - Cybervandalism.
- Chapter 8, "Intellectual Property Disputes in Cyberspace." In this chapter, we examine intellectual property disputes in cyberspace. We will examine what exactly are intellectual property and copyright laws as they apply to digital media, and software piracy. We will also review the movement of open source software.

Optional Skillsoft Resources

- Skillsoft. (n.d.). [Certified Ethical Hacker \(CEH\): Social engineering \[Tutorial\]](#).
- Lachance, D. (2015). [CISSP: Social engineering attacks \[Video\]](#). Skillsoft Ireland.

u05a1 - Team Project: IT Code of Ethics

For the final assignment and course project, due in Unit 5, your team will write a brief report on the importance of writing and adopting a code of ethics for your organization and develop a PowerPoint presentation that will include the components of the proposed code of ethics for your company. This will be your final assignment. The report written by your team will be presented to the CEO and CIO. The PowerPoint presentation will be presented to top management and supervisors as well as the CEO and CIO.

Your research of existing codes of ethics in Unit 4 will be beneficial to this project. You will use precepts and principles from ethical thinkers to justify your recommendations for each aspect of your code.

Your paper should be a minimum of three pages (double-spaced), with at least two references. The title page, table of contents, and reference pages do not count as part of the three-page minimum. Be sure your paper follows current APA guidelines, including in-text citations. This paper should include an explanation of the ethical responsibilities of information technology professionals.

Your PowerPoint presentation should be a minimum of four slides. It should include a justification for your proposal of implementing a code of ethics for the company along with some of the issues that should be covered in the code of ethics.

To successfully complete this project, you will be expected to:

- Write a well-written report that provides justification of why your company should incorporate an IT code of ethics and that explains the ethical responsibilities of information technology professionals.
- Develop an informative PowerPoint presentation that includes specific conduct that will be highlighted in your company's IT code of ethics.
- Identify ethical responsibilities of information technology professionals.

After your team has come to an agreement on the course project, the project manager will submit the final documents to this assignment.

Project manager: Ensure that the project meets all requirements. This includes ensuring there is a title page and a reference page. Ensure that all team members' names are listed on the title page. Attach your team's project to this assignment (there should be two files, the paper and the PowerPoint presentation).

All other team members (excluding project manager): Submit your agreement with the team project. Include the team name or number in the subject line.

Course Resources

[APA Style and Format](#)

There have been cases involving sting operations to apprehend pedophiles. While many people agree that these sting operations are necessary, others may argue that these could be classified as entrapment and should not be used. For this discussion:

- Do you believe that sting operations should be used to lure pedophiles?
- Are there other methods that could be used to protect children from these predators? Explain your answer.

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. Because this is our final and short week, at 11:59:59 CST on Friday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources
Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide
APA Style and Format

u05d2 - Reflections

This course covered many moral and social issues as they relate to IT. In addition, you had a chance to work on an individual assignment and a team project. In this discussion, respond to the following as they relate to your

entire experience:

- How has your view changed from Unit 1 in what you see as the unique ethical problems in IT and the reasons you studied computer ethics?
- What impact has this had on you?
- Share your closing thoughts on how ethics must be related to IT and the Information Age.

Response Guidelines

- This discussion will be an open-ended and in-depth, two-way discussion to afford you the opportunity to interact with your course instructor and other students. Please note your initial post is due by 11:59:59 CST on Wednesday of this week. Because this is our final and short week, at 11:59:59 CST on Friday of this week, please post a response post to two of your fellow learners' posts.
- Length: Your content post should be between 200–250 words presented in three to four paragraphs. A paragraph should be between three to five sentences. Please add the appropriate APA citations to the content post.
- You will respond to at least two other learners' initial posts. Your response posts to your fellow learners' post should be between 100–150 words with the appropriate APA citations added.
- Both your content post and your response posts should reflect a collegial attitude, be free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Post your discussion in the discussion forum.

Note: Use the sources provided in the course to support your responses. Remember to access the Web links as provided and do any Internet research necessary to support the details of your responses. Sourcing your information is required.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Style and Format](#)