

Professional Ethics

Tom Kelliher, CS 200

Mar. 26, 2009

1 Administrivia

Announcements

Presentations begin in two weeks First up: Melissa, Jonathan, and Russ. Hardcopy of paper due at time of presentation.

Assignment

Read Chapter 9.

Turn in answers to these questions: 1, 4, 9.

From Last Time

Computer reliability.

Coming Up

Work and Wealth.

2 Chapter Summary

1. Strongly differentiated professions.
 - (a) Exceptions to ordinary morality by virtue of profession, not position.
 - (b) Role of efficacy.
2. Characteristics of a profession.
 - (a) Mastery of an esoteric body of knowledge.
 - (b) Autonomy, at personal and profession levels.
 - (c) Formal Organization. Sets standards; controls admission.
 - (d) Code of ethics.
 - (e) Social function.
3. Professional relationships:
 - (a) Employer-Employee.
 - (b) Client-Professional.
 - (c) Society-Professional.
 - (d) Professional-Professional.
4. Codes of ethics.

3 Discussion Questions

1. Should computing be a profession?

2. What about software engineering?
3. What about other sub-disciplines of computing?
4. Some thorny technical ethics cases:
 - (a) Challenger and Columbia disasters.
 - (b) Therac-25 disaster.
 - (c) e-Voting.
 - (d) RFID technology.
5. Exercises 21—.