

Professional Ethics

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1 Administrivia

Announcements

Assignment

Presentations begin next week.

From Last Time

Work and Wealth

Coming Up

Presentations.

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.