

Software Ethics

The Code of Ethics is a serious topic, that every major and minor company should have them or at least some policies that the workers must follow. I believe that software engineers and companies should test as much as possible, even if it costs them a fortune. When it involves a human's life or their personal information. Depending on the job, your cost to make sure there is an adequate amount of safety should be no limit because of the ethics that are in place. I believe that because sometimes people's lives are at risk, and no amount of money can equal a human's life. Safety should be a number one priority. "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." (Proverbs 3:27).

When it comes to developing a system or even releasing a system that could be life-threatening, it should not be accessible to the public until it is completely safe. That is how I would want to be treated and respected for any project that someone is developing or is trying to release in the public. My moral principles are biblical. Matthew 7:12 states, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." The Golden Rule here tells me that ethical decision-making requires empathy. If I would not want to be exposed to unsafe or unreliable technology, I cannot deploy such systems to other individuals. Similarly, Philippians 2:4 instructs us, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." In terms of technology, this means putting others' safety, well-being, and trust ahead of profit or personal ambition.

I believe that software engineers should be required to obtain a certification or any formal oversight because they can develop any type of software that could be harmful, contain dangerous bugs that could be life-threatening, or a breach of security. They should at least be able to stop those types of problems from happening and be made aware of the ethical policies that are in place for them to follow. "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." (James 3:1) This verse relates to them needing a certification because they can affect people with tools that they created so they should be trained, certified, and held accountable.

Luke 6:31 teaches, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This principle, often called the Golden Rule, creates a moral standard that extends beyond individual to professional life. For software developers, it is a call to a responsibility to be as generous and understanding with users as one would hope if the roles were reversed.

Practically, this means that engineers have a responsibility to users to protect them from harm by ensuring that the software they produce is secure, safe, and reliable. Much like no one would want their personal data compromised, their computers hacked, or their security threatened through defective systems, engineers can do everything they can to prevent such a thing from happening. The Golden Rule compels them to step into the end users' shoes relying on a medical device, trusting an Internet banking website, or relying on a navigation system and then to build software that puts the users first.