



Ethics in Computer Science

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Introduction to Computer Ethics

What is Computer Ethics?

- **Definition:** A set of moral principles that define acceptable behavior of computer use
 - **Areas of Interest:** Privacy, Security, Appropriate Use, Intellectual Property, Equality
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Utilitarianism

Overview

- **Definition:** Method of decision-making that focuses on the end result
 - **Benefits:** Generally beneficial outcomes for the greatest amount of people
 - **Disadvantage:** Limited ability to weigh personal rights or ethical considerations
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Deontology

Overview

- **Definition:** Duty-oriented approach to decision making
 - **Benefits:** Good at protecting human rights and promoting social justice
 - **Disadvantage:** Can lead to controversial decisions based on intuition
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Virtue Ethics

Overview

- **Definition:** Approach to decision-making that focuses on the character of the individual
 - **Benefits:** Strengthens relationships and considers consequences on multiple levels
 - **Disadvantage:** Less applicable for large-scale or organizational decision-making
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Examples

Privacy

- **Utilitarianism:** Protection of data in exchange for user trust
 - **Deontology:** Confidentiality and respect of user data
 - **Virtue Ethics:** Develop strong relationships through data transparency
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Misuse of Technology

- **Utilitarianism:** Reduce harm caused by improper use
- **Deontology:** Follow protocols and decrease potential for abuse
- **Virtue Ethics:** Promote responsible use of technology and respect of others

