ISTE 110: Ethics in Computing

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Core Values in Ethics

"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few" -Spock, Star Trek
It is the greatest good to the greatest number of people which is the measure
of right and wrong,

Definition of Ethics

- A reational (justifiable) systematic analysis of conduct that can benefit
  or harm people

- Based in reason, people have to justify their opinions

- Helps us understand why people feel the way they do, a set or system
  of principles for a social system

- Focuses on the voluntary moral choices people make because they have
  decided on a course of action

Definition of Morals

- Beliefs based on how people conduct themselves

- How things should work, according to one's beliefs and principles

- Individual/internalized

- Can change if a person's belief changes

Plato documented Socrates' thoughts, and the study of ethics goes back at least 2400 years. "[A person] has only one thing to consider in performing an action: whether s/he is acting right or wrongly, like a good [person] or a bad one."

- Happy = doing "right"

- Everyong acts in self-interest

- People are not deliberately immoral

- If you know what is good, you will do it

Why Ethical Theory?

- A theory lets us examin moral problems, reach conclusions, and defend those conclusions.

- You can make a logical and persuasive argument through the use of persuasive theory.

Principles:

- Objectivist (Ayn Rand): The purpose of morality is to define values that support a person's life.

- Objectivist (Kant): We act out of respect for moral values.

- Utilitarianism: "Greatest Happiness Principle", principle of utility, action is right/wrong according to the degree that it increases or decreases total happiness of all involved.

- Social Contract: There are a set of rules that comprise morality, and these rules govern how people should treat each other.

Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

1. obedience (avoid punishment)

2. self-interest (gain reward)

3. conformity (dis/approval)

4. law and order (duty and guilt)

5. human rights (agreed-upon rights)

6. universal human ethics (personal moral standards)

Gilligan's Stages of the Ethic of Care

- Pre-conventional: individual survival

- Conventional: self-sacrifice is goodness

- Post-conventional: do not hurt others or yourself

Michael J. Quinn

He suggested that four ethical theories are practical ones for analyzing scenarios in the field of informational technology.

- Kant

- Act Utilitarianism

- Rule Utilitarianism

- Social Contract

Reminders and Homework

In MyCourses, navigate to Content and watch the "Sneakers" movie. Assignment: "Sneakers" Movie Reaction Paper, due in Dropbox by Sunday, February 12th, at 11:59pm. You must submit a Word document, please do not submit a PDF.

You can find all my notes at `http://omgimanerd.tech/notes`. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact me at alvin@omgimanerd.tech