Day 22

Professional ethics
Going pro

0 A professional is an expert in a field
   0 Customers rely on the knowledge, expertise, and honesty of the professional

0 A professional advertises his or her expertise and thus has an obligation to provide it.

0 Professionals must maintain up to date skills and knowledge
Professional Ethics

- Just because a certain behavior isn’t illegal, doesn’t mean you should do it. Many professions have a code of ethics that professionals are expected to abide by.
  - Medical doctors
    - Hippocratic Oath → “Primum non nocere.”
  - Lawyers and judges
    - ABA Model rules of professional conduct
  - Accountants
    - American Institute of CPAs Code of Conduct
  - Bankers
    - FDIC Code of Conduct
PE for Computing Professionals

0 Provides a general statement of ethical values
0 Reminds people in the profession that ethical behavior is an essential part of their job
0 Provides guidance for new or young members

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
(jointly adopted by ACM and IEEE)
Guidelines

0 Include users (such as medical staff, technicians, pilots, office workers) in the design and testing stages to provide safe and useful systems
0 Do a thorough, careful job when planning and scheduling a project and when writing bids or contracts
0 Design for real users, test extensively
0 Avoid and **report** conflicts of interest
   0 Self-dealing
   0 Nepotism
More guidelines

- Don’t assume existing software is safe or correct; review and test it
- Be open and honest about capabilities, safety, and limitations of software
- Require a convincing case for safety
- Pay attention to defaults: choice architecture
- Develop communication skills
- Do not expand bounds of acceptable risk