COMP 4620 – Professional Practice in Computer Science

Calendar Description: Ethical, moral, and legal issues in the development of computer systems; standards of practice; implications of advanced computer systems.
Prerequisite: COMP 2140

Outline

1) Introduction to ethics (1 week)
   Ethics vs. morality
2) Rationale for studying ethics (1 week)
3) Philosophical concepts and theories (2 weeks)
   Deontology, Teleology, Application
4) Professional Ethics (3 weeks)
   Professionals and professionalism, Standards of practice, Codes of ethics, Professionalism considerations in Computer Science, Intellectual property considerations
5) Privacy (2 weeks)
   What privacy is, why privacy is important, Privacy considerations in Computer Science
6) Freedom (1 week)
   Censorship and freedom of expression
6) Social responsibilities (1 week)
   Recognizing the need for computer scientists in being more involved in societal issues
7) Case studies (1 week)
8) Discussions of current events (1 week)

Case studies and current events are covered in on-going manner throughout the course.

Text: none. A number of online readings (net and journal articles) will be assigned.