Computer Ethics Institute

A moral compass for cyberspace



Computer Ethics Institute

Who...

Ethicists and computer professionals
Educators and business leaders
Philosophers and attorneys
Theologians and legislators
Social scientists and engineers
Law enforcement and (former) hackers

What...

CEI is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

When...

Founded 1986, incorporated 1991

Where...

Washington, DC

Why...

To provide a moral compass in cyberspace.

Founded by...

The Brookings Institution IBM
The Washington Theological Consortium

Why is CEI needed?

- Identity theft has reached epidemic proportions and cost the US economy \$56.6 billion in 2006.
- With some 24 million children now online, 1 out of 5 has been solicited for sex in the last year.
- In 2006 there were 207,492 complaints filed with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), with a total dollar loss of almost \$200 million.
- On average 40 new viruses/variants were born every month in 2007.
- Over 79% of all e-mail messages are projected to be spam in 2008.



Activities

Publications

- Books
- International Conference Proceedings
- Case Studies

National Conferences

- Have been held since 1986
- Cross-discipline bridge between public policy, ethics, business and technology
- Leaders in IT, academia, government and business can collaborate

Events focused on growing issues

- Recent events dealt with balancing civil liberties, national security, information sharing
- Children's educational workshops

Commandments/Rules of Computer Ethics

CEI Fellows Program

Goals and Opportunities

Computer Ethics Education

 Develop solid programs that deliver value and insights to schools, governments, and businesses

Membership and Certificate Program

 Certify compliance with clear norms of ethical IT policies and procedures at the enterprise level

Case Study Repository

- Provide a central source for material on IT ethical dilemmas
- Disseminate lessons learned and resolutions

"Ask an Ethicist" Forum

Provide resources to assist in the resolution of difficult IT ethical dilemmas

National Conferences

Provide a continuing forum to discuss current and future IT ethical issues



Ten Commandments of Computer Ethics

Thou shalt not...

- 1. Use a computer to harm other people.
- 2. Interfere with other people's computer work.
- 3. Snoop around in other people's computer files.
- Use a computer to steal.
- 5. Use a computer to bear false witness.
- Copy or use proprietary software for which you have not paid.
- 7. Use other people's computer resources without authorization or proper compensation.
- 8. Appropriate other people's intellectual output.

Thou shalt...

- 9. Think about the social consequences of the program you are writing or the system you are designing.
- 10. Always use a computer in ways that insure consideration and respect for your fellow humans.

Ten Rules of Computer Ethics

- 1. Don't use a computer to harm other people
- 2. Don't interfere with other people's computer work.
- 3. Don't snoop around in other people's computer files.
- 4. Don't use a computer to steal.
- 5. ..

Foreign Language Translations

- ان تستخدم الحاسوب للأذى. .1
- 2. 不应干扰别人的计算机工作
- 3. Не суй нос в чужие компьютерные файлы.
- 4. Tu n'utiliseras pas ton ordinateur pour voler.
- 5. ...

More than 25 languages

