

CS 495/EE495 - Senior Project Phase I

Fall 2019 – Ethics Essay

Out: September 18, 2019

Draft due in class: September 23, 2019 (Monday)

Final submission to LiveText due: September 25, 2019 (Wednesday)

Choose (exactly!) one of the following recent events involving software used in a potentially unethical manner and read the articles related to your choice on the course webpage:

- Google engineers refuse to work on Project Maven that applies artificial intelligence to improve warfare systems targeting humans
- Software that allowed VW automobiles to pass EPA emissions test incorrectly
- US government suing Apple to provide a backdoor to the iOS operating system
- Creators of Pokemon Go allowing the game to be played in arguably inappropriate places.

OR choose (exactly!) one of the case studies in the engineering ethics paper available on the course website:

- Flaw in the Intel Pentium Chip
- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) automatic train control (ATC) system
- Effects of low-frequency electromagnetic fields
- Failure of Paradyne computers for the Social Security Administration

You may look up other articles if you want.

Write a 2-3 page essay (12pt font, double-spaced, 1in margins) discussing the ethical dilemma faced by the **developers of the software** (not the company) in question for the computing events.

Apply the strategy from the last class:

- Describe what happened
- The identify the ethical issues for the **developers or engineers (not the company)**, and explain the conflict
- Conclude whether or not the **developers or engineers (not the company)** acted in an ethical manner and/or what persons should do in their situation. Justify your analysis in a logical manner.

You **must include**, but are not limited to, **application of one or more professional codes of ethics**. Be sure to **provide references and properly cite the sources** of your information, **including any codes of ethics**.

Bring a draft of your ethics essay to class on Monday, September 23. We will discuss your findings in groups.

The final version must be **submitted in PDF to LiveText** no later than 11:59pm CDT on **Wednesday, September 25.**