

An ITETHIC Reader

“The Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics”
and
“Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid”

by

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Book Review for ITETHIC



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Table of Contents:

The Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics:

Chapter 1. Foundations of Information Ethics	5
Chapter 2. Milestones in the History of Information and Computer Ethics	6
Chapter 3. Moral Methodology and Information Technology	7
Chapter 4. Value Sensitive Design and Information Systems	8
Chapter 5. Personality-Based, Rule-Utilitarian, and Lockean Justifications of Intellectual Property	9
Chapter 6. Informational Privacy: Concepts, Theories, and Controversies	10
Chapter 7. Online Anonymity	11
Chapter 8. Ethical Issues Involving Computer Security: Hacking, Hacktivism, and Counterhacking	12
Chapter 9. Information Ethics and the Library Profession	13
Chapter 10. Ethical Interest in Free and Open Source Software	14
Chapter 11. Internet Research Ethics: The Field and Its Critical Issues	15
Chapter 12. Health Information Technology: Challenges in Ethics, Science, and Uncertainty	16
Chapter 13. Ethical Issues of Information and Business	17
Chapter 14. Responsibilities for Information on the Internet	18
Chapter 15. Virtual Reality and Computer Simulation	19
Chapter 16. Genetic Information: Epistemological and Ethical Issues	20
Chapter 17. The Ethics of Cyber Conflict	21
Chapter 18. A Practical Mechanism for Ethical Risk Assessment – A SoDIS Inspection	22
Chapter 19. Regulation and Governance of the Internet	23
Chapter 20. Information Overload	24
Chapter 21. Email Spam	25
Chapter 22. The Matter of Plagiarism: What, Why, and If	26
Chapter 23. Intellectual Property: Legal and Moral Challenges of Online File Sharing	27
Chapter 24. Censorship and Access to Expression	28
Chapter 25. The Gender Agenda in Computer Ethics	29
Chapter 26. The Digital Divide: A Perspective for the Future	30
Chapter 27. Intercultural Information Ethics	31

Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid

Chapter 1: The Market at the Bottom of the Pyramid	33
Chapter 2: Products and Services for the BOP	34
Chapter 3: BOP: A Global Opportunity?	35
Chapter 4: The Ecosystem for Wealth Creation	36

Preface

This book is a compilation of my reflections, learning and discussions about the *Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics* and the *Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*.

***“The Handbook of Information
and Computer Ethics”***

Chapter 1: Foundations of Information Ethics

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the foundations of information ethics.
2. To understand the three stages of information ethics approach.
3. To know the impact of Information Ethics to us.

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“And as a full expression of techne, the information society has already posed fundamental ethical problems, whose complexity and global dimensions are rapidly growing and evolving.”

Review:

In this chapter it discussed that the Information Ethics has been claimed to be the study of moral issues arising from one or another of the three distinct “information arrows” in the RPT model. The first stage says that the Information Ethics is an ethics of informational resources. The informational resources are to be managed efficiently, effectively, and fairly. The second stage says that Information as an ethics of informational products. According to this chapter, it says that because information ethics is understood as Information as-a-Product Ethics, it covers the moral issues that arise in the context of accountability, liability, libel legislation, testimony, plagiarism, advertising, propaganda, misinformation, and more generally of pragmatic rules of communication a la Grice. The third stage says that information ethics is an ethics of the informational environment.

What I have learned:

- I have learned the first, second and third stage of approaches to information ethics.
- I have understood the foundations of information ethics.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are the three stages of approaches to information ethics?
2. What is the first stage all about?
3. What is the second stage all about?
4. What is the third stage all about?
5. What is the RPT model all about?

Chapter 2: Milestone in the History of Information and Computer Ethics

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the milestone in the history of information and computer ethics.
2. To understand the development of the information technology.
3. To know what are the helpful ways in analyzing information ethics issues.

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

"If the traditions, precedents, and policies that one starts with are embedded within a reasonably just society, then this method of analyzing and resolving information ethics issues will likely provide just solutions that can be assimilated into that society."

Review:

The development of the information technology is as fast as the change that was brought by the industrial revolution. Information technology has grown very rapidly and today it is now widespread. How did all of these developments begin? According to this chapter, all of these discoveries at first just happened accidentally. They continued with the development of the information technology and came up with an industry that we have today. The development was really fast and it is still continuing to expand itself.

In this chapter, Wiener also discussed some of the helpful ways of analyzing information ethics issues and these are by ways of identifying ethical question or case about the integration of information technology into society; clarifying of any ambiguous or vague ideas or principles that concerns the case or issue in question; applying ethical principles, laws, rules, and practices that govern human behavior in the given society; using human life's purpose and the great principles of justice in finding out the best solution.

What I have learned:

- I have learned how fast the development of information technology is.
- I have learned some of the helpful ways of analyzing information ethics issues.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are some of the helpful ways of analyzing information ethics issues?
2. Did the information technology grow rapidly?
3. How did this happen?
4. Who made this happen?
5. What are the changes that happened after the development of information technology?

Chapter 3: Moral Methodology and Information Technology

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the moral methodology.
2. To know what is information technology.
3. To have an idea on computer ethics.

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Quote:

“Computer ethics is a form of applied or practical ethics. It studies the moral questions that are associated with the development, application, and use of computers and computer science. Computer ethics exemplifies, like many other areas of applied and professional ethics, the increasing interest among professionals, public policy makers, and academic philosophers in real-life ethical questions.”

Review:

Ethical issues in information technology are very much connected with the moral problems we are facing nowadays. In line with the development of the information technology, there are some ethical issues that are linked to it. How do we face these issues that concerns ethics? Well if we are familiarized on the computer ethics then we get to apply the practical ethics we have learned. In dealing with these problems the best solution to do is to apply the best ethical choices we know. There are a lot of moral rules and principles that we follow that lead us to a valid practical decision. In some cases, the best thing to do is to make use of the principles that matches our decisions and perceptions so that we will be at ease about the choices we have made.

What I have learned:

- I have learned about the ethical issues the society is facing today.
- I have learned some ways on how to face issues that concern ethics.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is an ethical issue?
2. Give an example of an ethical issue.
3. What is the best thing to do to solve these problems?
4. What are the ethical issues that happened in the development of the information technology?
5. What are the moral problems we have today?

Chapter 4: Value Sensitive Design and Information Systems

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the value sensitive design and information systems.
2. To understand the concept behind value sensitive design.
3. To learn how value sensitive design affects information technology.

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Quote:

“Value Sensitive Design is a theoretically grounded approach to the design of technology that accounts for human values in a principled and comprehensive manner throughout the design process.”

Review:

As defined in this chapter, “Value Sensitive Design is a theoretically grounded approach to the design of technology that accounts for human values in a principled and comprehensive manner throughout the design process.” Why is this necessary? This approach will help us in being able to design a technology wherein it is based on the human values and the principles that we have. In designing a technology, we should always prioritize the need of the users as well as the benefits that we will get from it. The importance of the technology depends on how it satisfies the people who uses it. If most people like the technology then probably this technology was designed base on the preferences of the end users. Human value is one of the most important factors that we need to consider when creating or designing a new technology.

What I have learned:

- I have learned the importance of value sensitive design.
- I have understood the concept about value sensitive design.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is value sensitive design?
2. What is the concept behind it?
3. How does it affect information technology?
4. Is it necessary to undergo this process when designing an information technology?
5. Why is this chapter relevant to us?

Chapter 5: Personality-Based, Rule-Utilitarian, and Lockean Justifications of Intellectual Property

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the justifications of intellectual property.
2. To understand its ability to control a physical manifestations or expressions.
3. To know what intellectual property is.

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Quote:

“Typically, rights do not surround the abstract nonphysical entity, or res, of intellectual property; rather, intellectual property rights surround the control of physical manifestations or expressions.”

Review:

This chapter talks about the intellectual property. What is an intellectual property anyway? As stated in this chapter, intellectual property is defined as a generally characterized nonphysical property that is the product of cognitive processes and whose value is based upon some idea or collection of ideas. Intellectual property has the ability to control a physical manifestations or expressions. It has the right to protect it, for instance copyrighting. In copyrighting a particular work, there is a right to reproduce it, the right to get or derive other works from it, the right to give out copies of the work, the right to publish the work to others and the right to perform it in public. In addition, some of the moral rights include the right to publish it depending on what form that the owner wants, the right of the owner to claim his work, the right to destroy his own work.

What I have learned:

- I have learned the importance of intellectual property.
- I have understood its ability to control a physical manifestations or expressions.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is an intellectual property?
2. How do we justify it?
3. What are the rights we have when we copyright a property?
4. Why is copyrighting important?
5. What are some of the moral rights we have?

Chapter 6: Informational Privacy: Concepts, Theories, and Controversies

What I expect to learn:

1. To learn the concept on information privacy.
2. To understand the theories on information privacy.
3. To learn the controversies about information privacy.

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Quote:

“We demand recognition of our right to privacy, we complain when privacy is invaded, yet we encounter difficulties immediately [when] we seek to explain what we mean by privacy, what is the area, the content of privacy, what is outside that area, what constitutes a loss of privacy, a loss to which we have consented, a justified loss, an unjustified loss.”

Review:

Let us first define the meaning of privacy. Privacy is also being related with anonymity. If a person wishes to stay unseen or anonymous from the public then probably he is asking for some personal privacy. When a person asks for privacy, it usually means that there is something that they do not want to show to other people but rather keep it private to them. Once information has been spread out and has reached more and more people, then eventually the privacy of that information will now be gone. Information should be used appropriately and must be protected very well so that other people will not be able to access it easily. One of the most important moral values is the respect to other person's privacy. We should know that we do not have the right to invade the privacy of other people especially when it comes to information that has to be kept private.

What I have learned:

- I have learned the concept behind information privacy.
- I have understood why it is important to respect one's privacy.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is privacy?
2. How do we respect other people's privacy?
3. Why is it important to respect their privacy?
4. What have you learned about information privacy?
5. How do we make use of information appropriately?

CHAPTER 7: Online Anonymity

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand what online anonymity is.
2. To understand the concept behind it.
3. To understand why online anonymity is necessary.

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Quote:

“Anonymity can also be brought about in a variety of ways and there are many purposes, both positive and negative, that anonymity could serve, such as, on the positive side, promoting free expression and exchange of ideas, or protecting someone from undesirable publicity or, on the negative, hate speech with no accountability, fraud or other criminal activity.”

Review:

This chapter discussed all about anonymity. As stated in this chapter, the term anonymity has been used to indicate a number of associated things and these are namelessness, detachment, unidentifiable, lack of recognition, loss of sense of identity or sense of self, and many more. Sometimes we prefer to be anonymous to other people for some reason that we want to hide our identities to them. Anonymity and privacy are related to each other and are almost the same. We choose to be private so that people would not recognize us and they will not give too much attention on our every move. How is anonymity related to social perspectives? It says that an individual has the ability to act, affect or be affected by others, or wherein the knowledge or lack of knowledge of whom a person is significant to their acting, affecting, or being affected by others.

What I have learned:

- I have learned what online anonymity is.
- I have understood the concept behind it.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is an online anonymity?
2. What is this necessary?
3. How is anonymity related to social perspectives?
4. How is anonymity and privacy related with each other?
5. Why do some prefer to be anonymous?

CHAPTER 8: Ethical Issues Involving Computer Security: Hacking, Hacktivism, and Counterhacking

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the ethical issues involving computer security.
2. To know what hacking/counterhacking is.
3. To know what what hacktivism is.

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Quote:

“Hacktivism does not seek to achieve its political purposes, unlike terrorism, by inspiring terror among the population; it attempts to achieve these purposes by stimulating discussion and debate.”

Review:

This chapter discussed four topics which concerns Ethical Issues Involving Computer Security. On the first section, it discussed about the prima facie case against hacking. The second discussed about the social benefits of benign intrusions, for instance the intention of exposing security vulnerabilities. The third discussed about hacktivism. The fourth topics were about counter hacking also known as hack backs.

On the first topic, there are two issues which concern prima facie case against hacking. The first one says that not all hacking is wrong because trespassing is not always wrong. For some instances, trespassing is good if the purpose of doing it is for a good intention and doing what is right. The second one says that digital intrusion is not usually characterized as trespass. Since it is more like using heat sensors to see what is happening in the house instead of going into the house with no consent.

What I have learned:

- I have learned some of the ethical issues involving computer security.
- I have understood the meaning of hacking, hactivism and counterhacking.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is an ethical issue?
2. Give examples of ethical issues.
3. What are the ethical issues involving computer security?
4. How important is computer security?
5. What are the two issues which concern prima facie case?

CHAPTER 9: Information Ethics and the Library Profession

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the information ethics and the library profession.
2. To understand the roles of the library profession.
3. To know the importance of providing information.

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Quote:

“Information itself is morally neutral but, in the context of guided inquiry, it supports the development of personal autonomy and personal agency.”

Review:

This chapter talks about how library profession affects the information ethics. What is a librarian? Well the primary role of a librarian is to give access on the information that we need. Librarians do have different activities and roles depending on what type of a librarian they are. There are what we call corporate librarians, academic librarians and public librarians. For corporate librarians, their goal is basically to provide access wherein it enhances the actions of a corporation. As an academic librarian, their goal is to provide access that will improve the activities of the university community which is a place of learning. The public librarian’s goal is to provide access that answers the information needs of each and every members of the society

We can access this information by doing research and reading articles about these topics. With this, we get to learn about the ethical issues that the society has been facing for a long time. There are books and articles that talks about some issues concerning ethical problems. It does not only broaden our knowledge but it also makes us aware of these unsolved problems that only few people give attention to.

What I have learned:

- I have learned the roles of librarians.
- I have understood the importance of providing information.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is a librarian?
2. What are their roles?
3. How do they provide information to us?
4. How important is a librarian?

CHAPTER 10: Ethical Interest in Free and Open Source Software

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the ethical interest in free and open source software.
2. To understand the difference between a free software and an open source software.
3. To understand what are the four freedoms for having free software.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

"The distinction between Free Software and Open Source Software has had a positive effect on the software development community and on the larger online community as well."

Review:

This chapter talks about the free software and the open source software. What is the difference between the two? For the free software, "it is a software that can be used, studied, and modified without restriction, and which can be copied and redistributed in modified or unmodified form either without restriction, or with minimal restrictions only to ensure that further recipients can also do these things and that manufacturers of consumer-facing hardware allow user modifications to their hardware." For the open source software, "it is a computer software that is available in source code form for which the source code and certain other rights normally reserved for copyright holders are provided under a software license that permits users to study, change, and improve the software." According to this chapter, there are four freedoms for having free software and these are the freedom to run the program, for any purpose, the freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs, the freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor and the freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public so that the whole community benefits.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is free software?
2. What is open source software?
3. What are the four freedoms for having free software?
4. What is the distinction between Free Software and Open Source Software?

Reference:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source_software

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_software

CHAPTER 11: Internet Research Ethics: The Field and Its Critical Issues

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the internet research ethics.
2. To understand the fields and its critical issues.
3. To know the most used research tools we have.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“Researchers thence have the obligation to respect and protect these rights, regardless of the costs of doing so, for example, of having to develop comparatively more complicated and/or costly research design to protect such rights, or even the ultimate cost of giving up an otherwise compelling and potentially highly beneficial research project because it unavoidably violates these basic rights and duties.”

Review:

Whenever we do research studies, I think most of us use the internet as a tool for doing researches. Internet nowadays has been continuing to rapidly develop and grow. It has become a way of getting out information we need to know. The ethics of internet research have now become concerned on the use of the internet making it a research object and a medium of getting necessary information. The use of internet as a research tool has continued to increase. More and more information can now be freely accessed by anyone who uses the web. Internet is now known as a social domain and it has led to the widespread of research applications. Some issues that we are concern about are the extensive usage of the internet. There have been an increase number of people who now relies on the internet when doing research. We must not forget that not all of this information is reliable.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are the internet research ethics?
2. What have you learned from this chapter?
3. What do we use the internet in doing research?
4. How relevant is the information we get from the internet?

Chapter 12: Health Information Technology: Challenges in Ethics, Science, and Uncertainty

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand about the health information technology.
2. To know the usage of information technology in health professions.
3. To understand the importance of decision support system.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“All professions give rise to ethical issues, not necessarily because practitioners do bad things or need to be saved from their many temptations, but because questions of appropriate action arise even in situations in which no one has done anything obviously wrong.”

Review:

The usage of the information technology we have these days in the health professions is also one of the sources of some ethical issues our society has been facing nowadays. This chapter has discussed three issues and these are: privacy and confidentiality, use of decision support systems, and development of personal health records. We all know that hospital records should always be kept as private as possible. Hospitals should be strict in giving out patient records and it is just right to keep their confidentiality. In storing and transmitting of health data records and information, hospitals are using intelligent machines that which analyzes the hospital records and information. One of the most important medical practices is the development of personal health records, these records must be accurate and must be easily accessed when needed.

CHAPTER 13: Ethical Issues of Information and Business

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the ethical issues of information and business.
2. To understand how ethical issues affects businesses.
3. To know why information is important to us.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“Information is becoming increasingly important in most aspects of our lives, and this is particularly true for our economic activities. Recent developments in the way we work and exchange goods and services are highly dependent on information.”

Review:

Why is the distribution of information necessary for us? Well according to this chapter, information influences and affects many of these problems and creates more in its own right. We all know that businesses do face a lot of different problems and these are ethical problems. Gathering of information may be the key for these problems to be solved and it really helps in figuring out ways in order for the businesses to perform at its best. Ethical issues may also have an effect on the way businesses are conducted so it is very important that information are properly well distributed so that they will be able to cope up with the ethical problems they might be facing.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are the ethical issues in information and business?
2. How are the businesses affected by these ethical issues?
3. How do we resolve ethical issues?
4. Why is gathering of information important?

CHAPTER 14: Responsibilities for Information on the Internet

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the responsibilities for information on the internet.
2. To be aware of our responsibilities when using the internet.
3. To know how to use available the information properly.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“One of the most fascinating aspects of the Internet is that very few accidents happen. This not only holds for the technical infrastructure and maintenance, but also for the communication and information transmitted through the network.”

Review:

We all know that the internet is now growing rapidly nowadays and most of the information we need are already available on the internet. Why do we rely so much on using the internet? We use the internet because it is easily accessible to us and we can share and get a lot of information from it quickly. However, there are also responsibilities that we need to act in accordance with when posting certain information on the internet. This information should not be outright illegal or immoral for its users. It is our duty as individuals to not post harmful or offensive information. In addition, we should not use this information we get from the internet with our illegal activities. These responsibilities are still part of our moral values and our ethics.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are some of the responsibilities we have when using information from the internet?
2. Why do we get information from the internet?
3. How relevant are these information to us?
4. Is it proper to rely on the information we get form the web?

Chapter 15: Virtual Reality and Computer Simulation

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the concept of virtual reality.
2. To understand the concept of computer simulation.
3. To understand why we need to make use of computer simulation.

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Quote:

“Computer simulations are used in the natural and social sciences to gain insight into the functioning of natural and social systems and in the engineering sciences for performance optimization, safety engineering, training, and education.”

Review:

Let us first be familiarized on the definition of virtual reality. As stated in this chapter, “virtual reality technology has emerged in the 1980s, along with the development and marketing of systems consisting of a head-mounted display and datasuit or dataglove attached to a computer.” This allows the users to interact with the computer-generated environment with the help of a datasuit and a dataglove. They are responsible for tracking down the location and the movement of the body parts that allows the computer to change the output based on the recorded location.

Integrative Questions:

1. Why is computer simulation necessary?
2. What is a virtual reality?
3. How does virtual reality allow the users to interact with the computer-generated environment?
4. What are the benefits we get from virtual reality?

Chapter 16: Genetic Information: Epistemological and Ethical Issues

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand what is genetic information.
2. To understand the concept behind epistemological and ethical issue.
3. To understand the importance of genetic information.

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Quote:

“The quantity of information in a system can be understood roughly as the amount of order in that system, or the inverse of the entropy that all closed physical systems accumulate over time.”

Review:

In this chapter, genetic information was defined as “the precise determination of sequence, either of bases in the nucleic acid and or of amino acid residues in the protein”. They say that the genetic information is unique compared with other kinds of health-related information for the reason that there is some other kind of genetic information that makes it different from other ones. Some says that the genetic information is predictive. However it says that a lot of genetic information is nonpredictive and most of the nongenetic health-related information is said to be predictive one. This chapter have also discussed about the Teleosemantics, “a philosophical program aiming at reducing meaning to biological function and then reducing teleology to natural selection.”

Chapter 17: The Ethics of Cyber Conflict

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the ethics of cyber conflict.
2. To know what are the conflict that arises on the web.
3. To learn what cyber terrorism is.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

"If the attacks are designed to be sufficiently destructive as to severely harm and terrorize civilians, they become "cyber terrorism"—the integration of cyber attacks with terrorism."

Review:

There are a lot of people who are now being victimized the viruses that is inside the computers. Some create viruses for the purpose of destroying important files and deletes it. This action is one of the most unethical technology issues our society has been facing today. Some of the viruses and sent by anonymous emails and once it is opened, the virus will spread on your computer and destroy the affected files. Other attacks are done for stealing; they will try to get and steal credit card numbers of the user and use it for their personal gain. Others try to hack the system to get the most kept data and information that are highly restricted. How do we avoid to be victimized by these people? The best thing to do is to always see to it that the information we give on the web will be properly hidden and we should always make sure that the web sites we visit can be trusted.

Chapter 18: A Practical Mechanism for Ethical Risk Assessment – A SoDIS Inspection

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the practical mechanism for ethical risk assessment.
2. To understand the process behind risk management.
3. To learn the importance of risk management.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“The narrow form of risk analysis and its limited understanding of the scope of a software project and information systems has contributed to significant software failures.”

Review:

In risk management, there are a few things that we need to consider. First is the context, it is referred to in the top box—the context in which the project is being developed. It is important to know how to establish the context. Second is the risk identification process, in this process it recognizes the possible negative impacts on the project and to its stakeholders. Third one is the risk analysis process, in this stage it divides the recognized risks by the level of its severity and the probability that they will occur. Fourth is the evaluation of risk wherein it identifies the level of risk and the fifth one is the treating of risks wherein they think of ways on how to solve the problem.

Chapter 19: Regulation and Governance of the Internet

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the concept of the regulation and governance of internet.
2. To understand why governance of internet is necessary.
3. To learn what internet governance is.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“ Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Review:

Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the internet. Why is this necessary? Well we are aware that we have been facing internet issues and it is just right that they finally create governance for the internet. They should implement new rules and regulation that concerns the proper use of the information. It should not be used to harm other people because it is unfair to treat other people that way. We should ensure that the people will not misbehave when they use the internet.

Chapter 20: Information Overload

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the concept behind information overload.
2. To know the causes of information overload.
3. To learn how to resolve information overload.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“Given the prevalence of cell phones, voice mail, e-mail, and instant messaging, as well as endless sources of academic, commercial, governmental, and personal information on theWeb, it should hardly be surprising if complaints about a flood, a fire hose, or a blizzard of information are not only common but increasing. “

Review:

What is an information overload? *It refers to the state of having too much information to make a decision or remain informed about a topic. Large amounts of historical information to dig through, a high rate of new information being added, contradictions in available information, a low signal-to-noise ratio make it difficult to identify what information is relevant to the decision. The lack of a method for comparing and processing different kinds of information can also contribute to this effect.* Too much of information sometimes brings negative impact on us. Information continues to increase even though some of the information we have today are not that relevant to us. This information will become useless since it is irrelevant therefore no one would be interested and give attention to it. Because of too much information we have today, we might become confused of which information is reliable and which is not.

Chapter 21: Email Spam

What I expect to learn:

1. To learn what email spam is.
2. To understand the issues concerning email spam.
3. To be aware of some of the unsolved issues we have today.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“The conceptual muddles about defining spam have immediate philosophical and legislative consequences. These muddles have, for example, made it difficult to write effective legislation regarding spam, and the laws that exist have not been successful at significantly reducing what many people consider a significant problem in cyberspace. “

Review:

One of the most issues we are concerned today is with regards to the email spam we receive every day. Most of these spams are very irrelevant and we put them directly on the deleted section or the recycle bin. It only consumes the space on our inbox and as a result we find it difficult to identify what are the important emails we are receiving because of too many spams we receive every day. Why do they still keep on sending us spam emails if they are already considered as unwanted emails? This is another internet issue that has remained to be unsolved. I think that they should stop sending spam email because the user just finds it very inconvenient in their part.

Chapter 22: The Matter of Plagiarism: What, Why, and If

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the concept of plagiarism.
2. To know how to avoid plagiarism.
3. To have an awareness on the importance of respecting other people's work.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

"Plagiarism will be treated here very broadly as expression that improperly incorporates existing work either without authorization or without documentation, or both. "

Review:

This chapter discusses the most popular issues that we have these days. Plagiarism is the act of getting other people's ideas and claims it as their own without their permission and without citation of the source. Some people have already been penalized because of this act. We might say that it will be convenient for us if we just copy other people's work to make our jobs be easily done. However we should realize that we must learn to respect the work of others and not claim it as our own. Plagiarism violates the moral rights of the author so as a sign of respect we are required to make citation whenever we use other people's ideas or works.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is plagiarism?
2. Why is plagiarism done?
3. How is plagiarism done?
4. What happens if you are caught plagiarizing?
5. Why is it important to respect other people's works?

Chapter 23: Intellectual Property: Legal and Moral Challenges of Online File Sharing

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand what intellectual property is.
2. To understand the importance of an intellectual property.
3. To know the legal and moral challenges of online file sharing.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“The industry contends that the unauthorized “sharing” of copyrighted files is actually tantamount to the theft of intellectual property. “

Review:

Online file sharing is now widely used by most of us. There are online file sharing that offers free sharing and downloading of files in the internet. Some issues take place when the files that are being shared are used in an illegal way. In a file sharing website we can download any kind of files for free. Some take advantage of these sites and download movies and then make pirated copies from it. After they produce the copies they start selling it to other people and earn profit from it. This form of action is illegal and authorities are hunting those who use this as a way of earning money. Online file sharing is intended for sharing files to its users and not to have them stolen and taken advantage from. It violates the rules and regulations and also the owner of a particular property.

Chapter 24: Censorship and Access to Expression

What I expect to learn:

1. To learn about the censorship of expression.
2. To learn about the access of expression.
3. To understand why is this necessary.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“A direct interest in articulating thoughts, attitudes, and feelings on matters of personal or broader human concern and perhaps through that articulation influencing the thought and conduct of others.”

Review:

Censorship limits access to an expression, either by deterring the speaker from speaking or the hearer from receiving such speech. I mean anything that may be composed by one person and communicated to another. This includes such things as speeches, personal communications, books, articles, compilations of data, artworks, photographs, and music. Why is this necessary? Well there should always be limitations to everything and this includes the limitation of censorship. We all have the freedom of speech and the freedom to be heard by anyone. There are a lot ways on how we can express out thoughts and feelings to other people. By expressing ourselves we get to influence our audiences and be able to connect with them. This also provides access to the people whom we want to hear what we have to say.

Chapter 25: The Gender Agenda in Computer Ethics

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the concept of gender agenda in computer ethics.
2. To learn about feminist ethics.
3. To distinguish the difference on how men and women make different ethical decisions.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“ The recognition of continuing differences between men’s and women’s lots, at home, in the workplace, and in education, even in societies that have seen considerable opening up of opportunities for women in the space of a generation or so, has been a major force in developing contemporary feminist writing.”

Review:

There are computer ethics that both male and female has been following. They do not always have the same principles when it comes to ethics. Male are very different from female. They vary on the way they think and how they do things. There is a big difference between these two genders. Female are said to be naturally caring and self-sacrificing. This chapter says that the feminist ethics grew out of long-running arguments about the unique personality of women’s morality. These two genders are very much unequal with each other. They have different qualities and different characteristics. Men and women has different ethical decision making. These ethical issues we have today may also have something to do with the gender issues that men and woman has.

Chapter 26: The Digital Divide: A Perspective for the Future

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand what is a digital divide.
2. To be aware on the issues concerning poverty.
3. To understand the gaps between the rich and the poor in the digital divide.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“Poverty in the affluent world is largely relative in the sense that someone who is “poor” simply means he has significantly less than what others around him have. “

Review:

Most popular unsolved issue that we still have today is poverty. Even though we are aware that poverty is a serious problem we have been facing today we still have not found the solution that would address this problem. More and more unfortunate people are now suffering due to insufficient money for their everyday lives. The number of population suffering from poverty has been continuing to increase and still it is not yet lessened in our society. There have been gaps between the rich and the poor in the digital divide. However these gaps can still access information communication technologies inside nations and between nations. This chapter is trying to point out that the problem here is not because of the global and local poverty but rather it is the ethical importance of the digital divide that needs to be solved because it is the one that links the disparity between the rich and the poor.

Chapter 27: Intercultural Information Ethics

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand the intercultural information ethics.
2. To understand the distinction between a cognitivism and a noncognitivism.
3. To learn the IIE's impact on the information and communication technology.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269246933&sr=8-3

Quote:

“Basic moods, through which the uniqueness of the world and the finitude of our existence become manifest, are a transcultural experience common to all human beings.”

Review:

Inter-cultural Information Ethics (IIE) can be defined in a narrow or in a broad sense. In a narrow sense it focuses on the impact of information and communication technology (ICT) on different cultures as well as on how specific issues are understood from different cultural traditions. In a broad sense IIE deals with intercultural issues raised not only by ICT, but also by other media as well, allowing a large historical comparative view. We cannot deny that the IIE has given a big impact on the information and communication technology and it was able to broaden it. Because of the huge historical comparative view we can see that the IIE has truly been expanded and grew bigger. This chapter also discussed the distinction between a cognitivism and a noncognitivism. It also presupposes that emotions of human beings have no cognitive value and that the human cognition has a truth-value if it is free of emotions.

***“Fortune at the Bottom
of the Pyramid”***

Chapter 1: The Market at the Bottom of the Pyramid

What I expect to learn:

1. To know the meaning of markets at the bottom of the pyramid.
2. To understand the basic concepts behind it.
3. To learn ways of eliminating poverty.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Fortune-Pyramid-Revised-Updated-Anniversary/dp/0137009275/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1271819345&sr=8-1

Quote:

"The traditional approach to creating the capacity to consume among the poor has been to provide the product or service free of charge. This has the feel of philanthropy. Charity might feel good but it rarely solves the problem in a scalable and sustainable fashion."

Review:

In this chapter, it discussed some of the approaches on how to help the poor. Poverty is one of the global issues that could not be solved in our society until now. According to the United Nations, about 25,000 people die every day of hunger-related causes. This means that more and more people are experiencing poverty. We know for a fact that a lot of people nowadays are unemployed and others are having a hard time to get themselves a job.

It says that there should be a collaboration between the poor, civil society organizations, governments and large firms to create the largest and fastest growing markets in the world. In this way they will be able to help the poor and make their business profitable. I think this is a good solution to eliminate poverty. They should create a lot of opportunities for the poor and help them earn a living for their families. Let them be exposed to possible opportunities that the inclusive globalization could provide for them.

Basically the best solution to eliminate poverty is by helping one another in every possible way. In this way we might be able to slow down the growth rate of poverty here in our society.

Chapter 2: Products and Services for the BOP

What I expect to learn:

1. To learn about the products and services for the BOP.
2. To be familiarized on the twelve principles of innovation for BOP markets.
3. To understand the significant opportunity for innovation in BOP markets.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Fortune-Pyramid-Revised-UpdatedAnniversary/dp/0137009275/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1271819345&sr=8-1

Quote:

"A significant opportunity for innovation in BOP markets centers around redefining the process to suit the infrastructure. Process innovation is a critical step in making products and services affordable to the poor. How to deliver is as important as what to deliver."

Review:

There are twelve principles of innovation for BOP markets. First, it focuses on the price performance of products and services. Second is about innovation that requires hybrid solution. Third one says that solutions that are developed should be scalable and transportable across countries, cultures and languages. Fourth is that the developed markets are accustomed to resource wastage. Fifth is about the product development which should start from a deep understanding of functionality and not just form. The sixth one says that the process innovations are just as critical in BOP markets as product innovation. Seventh says that deskilling work is critical. Eight talks about the key in education of customers on product usage. Ninth, products must work in hostile environments. Tenth one talks about how critical research on interfaces is given the nature of the consumer population. Eleventh talks about innovations that must reach the consumer. Lastly it says that the feature and function evolution in BOP markets can be very rapid.

Chapter 3: BOP: A Global Opportunity

What I expect to learn:

1. To learn the possible global opportunities we have.
2. To understand how large firms tend to engage to the BOP markets.
3. To be aware on the rapid growth of globalization.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Fortune-Pyramid-Revised-Updated-Anniversary/dp/0137009275/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1271819345&sr=8-1

Review:

In this chapter it explained the two ways in which large firms tend to engage to the BOP markets. The first one is by starting from the business models honed in the developed markets--the top of the pyramid and their zone of comfort. It says that this approach to the BOP market inevitably results in fine-tuning current products and services and management practices.

It is true that the rapid growth makes new demands on firms. I also learned in this chapter that the BOP forces an extraordinary emphasis on the price performance and thus the firms must focus on all elements of cost. It is better to cut the costs rather than to lose a big amount of money. It is important in a business to be able to collect revenues and reduce capital needs.

"Innovation must become value-oriented from the consumer's perspective. The BOP focuses attention on both the objective and subjective performances of the product or service."

Chapter 4: The Ecosystem for Wealth Creation

What I expect to learn:

1. To understand how to create wealth for the ecosystem.
2. To understand the concept behind the ecosystem for wealth creation
3. To learn about the framework that allows private sector and social actors to act together and create wealth in a symbiotic relationship.

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Fortune-Pyramid-Revised-Updated-Anniversary/dp/0137009275/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1271819345&sr=8-1

Quote:

"The private sector in the BOP context includes social organizations of different kinds that interact to create markets and develop appropriate products and services and deliver value."

Review:

One aspect of the ecosystem for wealth creation at a time has been the focus of both business and social development initiatives at the BOP.

"A business system is at the heart of the ecosystem for wealth creation." What does this phrase mean? Well basically businesses are made in order to gain profit. If a business does not make profit then they will have no choice but to end the business. What happens when businesses are able to make profit? Successful businesses have a big effect on the success of the business industry and thus it creates wealth. This chapter wants to change the focus of the debate from a preference for one form of private sector to focus on a market-oriented ecosystem. This chapter also discusses about the market-based ecosystem. What is a market-based ecosystem? As defined in this chapter, it is a framework that allows private sector and social actors, often with different sizes and areas of influence, to act together and create wealth in a symbiotic relationship.

References:

<http://www.megaessays.com/viewpaper/22191.html>