General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 1: Clarification
  • clarify the facts
  • clarify stakeholders
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 2: Identify the Question
  • understand ethical questions/issues
    • Should who do what? How?
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 3: Preliminary Analyses
  • Mom test, TV test, Smell test
  • Legal considerations
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

- Step 4: Theory-based Analysis
  - Kant
  - Utilitarianism (Act or Rule)
  - Social Contract
  - Virtue Ethics
Kantian Analysis

• Universal Rule
  • look for self contradiction or defeat

• Person as end, not means
  • look for use of person, deception, not respect
Utilitarian Analysis

- identify stakeholders
- associate value of consequences of actions with stakeholders
- weigh the consequences
  - of individual act or of a general rule
Social Contract Analysis

• consider rights and duties of stakeholders (positive and negative)

• look for violations of rights or failures to meet duties
Virtue Analysis

• consider virtues that situation calls forth
• consider how action choices express the relevant virtues
• select an action based on virtues
Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 5: Decision and Implementation
  • decide on an ethical course of action
  • combine indications from several theories
  • implement that action
I read this ethics book you got me. What did you think of it?

It really made me see things differently. It's given me a lot to think about.

I'm glad you enjoyed it. It's complicating my life. Don't get me any more.
Global Information Space

• We have created an information space that is global in its reach but local in control.

• What are the types of information that can be found in this information space?

• What are the types of actions that can be taken in this information space?

• What are general classes of actors?
Information Types

• Personal
  • health
• criminal
• shopping
• pictures
• communications
Information Types

- Academic/Scientific
- research papers
- course materials
- encyclopedias
Information Types

- Industrial/Commercial
  - machine and process designs
  - trade marks, urls
  - advertisements, products
Information Types

- Entertainment/Media
  - magazines
  - books
  - songs
  - movies
Information Types

- Governmental/Political
  - news
  - history
  - opinion
Information Types

• Control Information
  • commands to control host computers
  • commands to control network routers
  • commands to control attached devices
Information Space

• Actions

• adding/deleting/distributing information

• accessing information

• browsing, downloading, streaming

• monitoring actions of others

• denying access, filtering

• copying
Information Space

- Actors
  - individuals
  - interest groups
  - corporations
  - institutions
  - governments
Information Space

- Ethical Questions
  - Who should be able to do which actions to what information?
  - Specifying this general question gives rise to the classes of ethical issues in the information age.
Information Ethics

• Freedom of Speech/Access ---
  history/government/political

• Intellectual Property  ---
  academic/entertainment

• Privacy  ---  personal

• Hacking/Security  ---  control