Technology and ethics
Introduction
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The course

- Lectures, seminars, project
- Literature: Bynum-Rogerson, (Rachels, Quinn, Tavani), papers
- Examination: Participation, assignment, project, essay
- Theories (philosophy, psychology) and practical methods applicable in professional issues
- Program?

Program

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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What is morality and ethics?

- **Content**: “Right actions are moral but wrong actions are immoral”
- **Choice**: “Morality and ethics are related to choice”

Technology and ethics

- Technology is necessary, modern society can not function without it
- Technology affects significant values for persons and organizations
- Technology is malleable, it can be a tool for almost any purpose
- Technology has a much bigger impact, both positive and negative, on all aspects of life, compared to any other human artifact
Ethical usability?

- Ethical aspects have an increasing impact on technology usability
- Good technology do not cause conflicts
- Good technology satisfies important values and interests
- People do not want to and cannot use technology that does not satisfy the above, independently of its other usability aspects

Do we need ethics?

- There are really no problems! Just follow the law, the rules, or your moral feeling!
- Education in ethics cannot make people better!
- It is impossible to use ethics education in real life!

Do we know what is right?

- World: changing, global, unpredictable, complex
- Scientific and technical development
- Problems vary, are personal, different
- People are complex, isolated, undefined
- No functioning authorities & guidelines
- Decentralization, delegation
- Intense public and media interest
Can it be serious?

- Low usability and less profits
- Bad service, no trust
- Higher stress, worse environment
- Confusion, fear, desperation ...

Sub optimality: Nothing spectacular but devastating in time

Is it easy or difficult?

Generally we are constrained because of our nature but ethics are harder:
- Incompatible values decide right and wrong
- Contradictory cases, e.g. double standards
- Strong emotions
- Authority is very important
- Focus on content not on process

Gaining Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Nature, technology</th>
<th>Society, morality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fact</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Process</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Skill</td>
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Ethical insecurity?
Handling of moral issues creates a big risk: *Important myths can be destroyed*

- **For persons:** Resolution of problems, personal development, but risk to lose enthusiasm, get disoriented, lost, cynical
- **For organizations, society:** Hero, e.g. whistle blowing (courageous, responsible), or offend persons and principles (show no respect, disloyalty, treason, hostility)

What do we need?

- **Ethical competence:** Know how to handle ethical issues, how to think
- **Ethical processes:** Roles, procedures, mechanisms in organizations
- **Ethical confidence:** Know that we can find good solutions and trust our ability (i.e. know that our skill and our way of handling moral issues is working)

Different approaches

A

Values and norms

Philosophy, tradition, …

Right solution

B

Problem owners

Psychosocial processes

Skills, methods

Moral problem

AB