

ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (2018) - Summary

1. GENERAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES. *A computing professional should...*

- 1.1 Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing.
- 1.2 Avoid harm.
- 1.3 Be honest and trustworthy.
- 1.4 Be fair and take action not to discriminate.
- 1.5 Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts.†
- 1.6 Respect privacy.
- 1.7 Honor confidentiality.

2. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. *A computing professional should...*

- 2.1 Strive to achieve high quality in both the processes and products of professional work.
- 2.2 Maintain high standards of professional competence, conduct, and ethical practice.
- 2.3 Know and respect existing rules pertaining to professional work.
- 2.4 Accept and provide appropriate professional review.
- 2.5 Give comprehensive and thorough evaluations of computer systems and their impacts, including analysis of possible risks.
- 2.6 Perform work only in areas of competence.
- 2.7 Foster public awareness and understanding of computing, related technologies, and their consequences.
- 2.8 Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good.
- 2.9 Design and implement systems that are robustly and usably secure.

3. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES. *A computing professional, especially one acting as a leader, should...*

- 3.1 Ensure that the public good is the central concern during all professional computing work.
- 3.2 Articulate, encourage acceptance of, and evaluate fulfillment of social responsibilities by members of the organization or group.
- 3.3 Manage personnel and resources to enhance the quality of working life.
- 3.4 Articulate, apply, and support policies and processes that reflect the principles of the Code.
- 3.5 Create opportunities for members of the organization or group to grow as professionals.
- 3.6 Use care when modifying or retiring systems.
- 3.7 Recognize and take special care of systems that become integrated into the infrastructure of society.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE. *A computing professional should...*

- 4.1 Uphold, promote, and respect the principles of the Code.
- 4.2 Treat violations of the Code as inconsistent with membership in the ACM.

† Developing new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts creates value for society, and those who expend this effort should expect to gain value from their work. Computing professionals should therefore credit the creators of ideas, inventions, work, and artifacts, and respect copyrights, patents, trade secrets, license agreements, and other methods of protecting authors' works.

Both custom and the law recognize that some exceptions to a creator's control of a work are necessary for the public good. Computing professionals should not unduly oppose reasonable uses of their intellectual works. Efforts to help others by contributing time and energy to projects that help society illustrate a positive aspect of this principle. Such efforts include free and open source software and work put into the public domain. Computing professionals should not claim private ownership of work that they or others have shared as public resources.