
Professional Issues: Introduction

Massimo Felici



Title Slide

Acknowledgements:

Stuart Anderson

Professional Issues

- Much of your degree course is technical — you are gaining a deep understanding of Information, Computation and Communication.
- In the world there are many additional constraints and interests that need to be taken into account in exercising the skills you acquire on your course.
- **Professional Issues** considers the wider context in which you are likely to work and how that wider context shapes technical decisions.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course successfully:

- Given a work context, you should be able to identify how attributes of computing graduates can make an effective contribution to tasks in that context
- Given a scenario involving professional conduct, you should be able to identify failures of professionalism and successes and justify this with reference to appropriate codes of conduct
- Given a situation where a computing system could be deployed you should be able to identify how and where social and ethical implications arise in that potential deployment

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course successfully:

- Given the description of a particular work setting, you should be able to identify likely legal issues that are relevant to that setting and how account should be taken of those issues in the setting
- Given a description of the structure and operation of commercial computing organisations, you should be able to assess whether the structure is appropriate for the kind of business the organisation undertakes
- Given a description of a deployed or planned computing system, you should be able to identify the relationships between scientific, technical and engineering issues and the deployed system and be able to assess the consequences of those relationships
- You should be able to communicate effectively

PI is different from what you're used to...

Professional Issues

- Typical Science/Engineering topic — all required information is in the lectures, only one answer
- PI more like Social Science — you need to draw on experience from real world; may be no single or right answer
- This is not a bad thing

Professional Issues: Syllabus

- **Personal Attributes:** study skills, personal development, interpersonal skills; employers' views and expectations of graduates; verbal, writing and presentation skills
- **The Computing Profession:** professional bodies; codes of conduct and practice
- **Social and Ethical:** security, privacy, software ownership
- **People:** management, work psychology, groups, dealing with change

Professional Issues: Syllabus

- **Legal:** legal and regulatory frameworks; software contracts and liability; intellectual property, copyright and patents; computer misuse, data protection; health and safety
- **Commercial:** organisational structures; finance, accounting, audit; resource management
- **Computing Projects:** design, prototype and product; product development cycle; marketing and market research; project management and team working, change management

Professional Issues

- PI course webpage

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/pi/>

- Mailing List

pi-students@inf.ed.ac.uk

- interactive sessions — to be successful, you need to be prepared
- I'll take some of the sessions, some will be guest talks (to be announced), some may be given by our commercialisation people

Professional Issues

- **Course Textbook**

Frank Bott, Professional Issues in Information Technology, BCS, 2005

- **Course Resources**

- Lecture Notes — copies of slides will be handed out and made available via the course website
- References (e.g. books and papers)

Slide 8: Course Resources

- Professional Issues in Information Technology, Bott, BCS, 2005 [***]
- Scientists Must Write, R Barrass, Routledge, 2002 [**]
- Computer Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Bynum Rogerson(eds), Blackwell, 2004 [**]
- The Essence of Professional Issues in Computing, R Ayres, Prentice Hall, 1999 [**]
- Law and the Internet, L Edwards C Waelde, Hart, 1997 [*]

Professional Issues

- **Coursework essay 15%**
You'll declare that the essay is your own work
Deadline: Thursday, November 24th, 2pm
- **Examination paper 85%**