

CS 395 HOMEWORK 1

Due: 01/28/19 (Monday)

Read James Moor's paper "[What is Computer Ethics?](#)", published in *Metaphilosophy*, Vol. 16, No. 4 in October 1985. In 1983, the journal launched an essay competition on computer ethics to create interest in the subject. Moor's essay was the winner of this competition and the issue that published the essay was the journal's best-selling one.¹

Type up your answers to the questions below. Please use complete sentences, proper grammar and punctuation. Make use of quotation marks if you are quoting the author of the paper.

1. Moor's paper defined some terms that have become important in the field of Computer Ethics. They are "policy vacuum", "conceptual muddle", and "logical malleability". What do they mean?
2. Moor described how software programs created policy vacuums and conceptual muddles. Describe two *current* examples that also cause policy vacuums and/or conceptual muddles.
3. According to the paper, why is computer ethics important? E.g., Why should there be a field of Computer Ethics but not Microwave Ethics or Airplane Ethics?
4. Moor talks about "invisible programming values", which are values embedded in a computer program. Why should we be wary of them? How can Computer Ethics help?
5. What idea/section/point in Moor's essay resonated with you the most. Why?

¹ http://www.cs.utexas.edu/~ear/cs349/Bynum_Short_History.html