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Ethics in Engineering Technology

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Ethics in Engineering Technology

The field of engineering technology has increased significantly and it is now used in almost every part of an individual's life. Therefore, this will require engineers to work ethically and professionally to ensure other people are not affected by the issues that can be controlled. Similarly, ethical issues involved in engineering projects are currently included in engineering courses and education programs in many universities. In the current globalized world, the effects of engineering careers are increasing in essentialness and the community is becoming more cognizant of the engineer's role. Therefore, the ethical topic in engineering technology to be discussed is copyright concerns. Although most engineers utilize other copyrighted procedures by arguing that they were not aware, both engineers and academic institutions need to be accountable that their proficiency finances them and that the effects of their activities indicate their responsibilities.

Engineers are involved in different building and creating devices, machines and other buildings and constructions. This will require them to create proper designs that are unique and safe for individuals to use. Also, the design should conform to security procedures that will ensure users' data is protected. TMS (n.d) stated that the copyright act of 1976 was intended to protect and give rights to scientific and technical drawings. Therefore, the same author argued that the overall standard for copyrightability is that authors can safeguard their innovative work that is static in any physical medium of appearance.

Technology advancement has changed the way drawings are done. Many engineers used to draw their designs on physical presence; however, replicating another engineer's work is easy because of technology. Nevertheless, through copyright protection, engineers can safeguard their work from another engineer or company. Moreover, based on TMS (n.d), the copyright provides

engineers with the restricted right to copy and openly present the work. Also, the copyright provides engineers with the free right to distribute their innovative work to other individuals. Engineers thus need to act ethically when using other people's designs by acknowledging that they need to develop their designs without copying and reusing other people's content if they do not have permission.

The ethical issue of copyright comprises privacy and data protection. When someone has registered their innovative work, it is the responsibility of other engineers to act professionally and avoid reusing others' copyrighted content. For example, Santa Clara University (n.d) explained a scenario where copyright concerns were not handled carefully. The case comprised of SDX Alliance which is part of the well-known organization dealing with the making and selling computer elements and software and employed Ralph as a software engineer in the company. Ralph was assigned to an initial project of helping in building a ¹code for SDX Alliance's innovative hard disc controller. Therefore, considering that Ralph had already been involved in writing the same code before as an intern in another company and substantially improved the performance of that company. Ralph silently reused the code and the manager was excited with the enhancement the code brought to their product.

Nevertheless, before releasing the hard disc, the quality assurance team had to review the product and they found that another company copyrighted the code used in their product. Ralph was working as an intern before. Although the manager informed Ralph concerning the issue, Ralph confessed to not recognizing the mistake because he was not conversant with the intellectual property rights. Therefore, since Ralph did not work ethically on following the copyrights, the company will have to write another code hence delaying their release.

References

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