Professional Ethics

- In many professions whose professionals hold the power to harm people, holding those professionals to a high ethical standard is important.

- Examples of ethical standards in different professions:

- What happens if a professional fails to adhere to these rules of conduct?

- What are the benefits and drawbacks of some of these approaches to professional ethics?
Technology-related professional ethics

- In technology-related fields, there are also various forms of professional ethics e.g.
  - Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
  - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Code of Ethics

- A crucial difference between these codes of ethics and ones, for example, from the fields of medicine and law is that obeying the ACM and IEEE codes is *voluntary* for computing professionals.
- No significant way to hold computing professionals accountable to these codes of ethics e.g. can't make a computing professional lose their job if they violate these codes.
- How important is this difference?

- How can you hold computing professionals accountable to their professional codes of ethics?

- Is this an effective way make companies and computing professionals behave ethically?