Ethics

Case Studies

Ethical Conflict Problem

A group of young computer engineers start a new company to develop a very innovative product. They have developed a small proof-of-concept prototype which show to a number of investors. After a long and hard search for venture capital they find an angel investor who accepts to fund the project to develop a full scale product and accepts, what in the concept of the computer engineers is a fair distribution of profits and losses.

The young entrepreneurs start their nascent company get an office with a one-year lease, and hire other engineers, programmers and technicians.

After six months of successful development, they find out that the angel investor is a laundering money and probably the investment for their company comes from such money.

•Establish the ethical conflict.

•Determine the people affected by and the effects of any decision the entrepreneurs make.

•Analyze the conflict applying the three ethical theories.

•What decision should the young entrepreneurs make?

Case Study

- Capstone Project 2007
  - Group of 3 students
  - Medical Device
  - Restore hearing to deaf
    - Continuous Interleaved Sampling (CIS) algorithm for processing incoming signal
      - DSP
    - Microprocessor
      - Control signals and manage DSP output signals
      - Manage a hybrid chip that will produce a signal to a electrode array chip
        - Stimulate appropriate electrodes

One of the students

- Was a member of PETA
  - People for Ethical Treatment of Animals
    - Peta principles
      - Animals Are Not Ours to Eat
      - Animals Are Not Ours to Wear
      - Animals Are Not Ours to Experiment On
      - Animals Are Not Ours to Use for Entertainment
      - Animals Are Not Ours to Abuse in Any Way

Ethical Issue

- The device was eventually going to be tested on guinea pigs
- He learned this almost at the end of the ICOM 5047 course
- What should he do?