



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?
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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?

