

A recent article (Ethical Problems in Computing by Lou Berzai, July 25, 2012 in AITP [Association of Information Technology Professionals] at <http://www.aitp.org/news/98451/>) is partially reprinted below:

“Because of its constantly changing nature, the area of computer technology is one that is difficult to assign a specific set of moral codes, although it is necessary that ethics be considered when making decisions in this area. Computing creates a whole new set of ethical problems, unique unto itself. Such problems include:

*“...the unauthorized use of hardware, the theft of software, disputed rights to products, the use of computers to commit fraud, the phenomenon of hacking and data theft, sabotage in the form of viruses, responsibility for the reliability of output, making false claims for computers, and the degradation of work.” (Forester 4)*

These problems engender a whole new set of ethical questions, including:

- "Is copying software really a form of stealing"
- "Are so-called 'victimless' crimes... more acceptable than crimes with human victims"
- "Does information on individuals stored in a computer constitute an intolerable invasion of privacy?" (Forester 4 – 5)

These questions demand that ethical principles be applied to their resolution because without the consideration of ethics, these gray areas can easily become completely black.

To begin with, it seems that there are four big areas of computer ethics. They are "(1) computer crime; (2) responsibility for computer failure; (3) protection of computer property, records, and software; and (4) privacy of the company, workers, and customers". (De George 338) ..."

Write a research paper succinctly exploring **one** of the four areas addressed in the Berzai paper (above):

- 1. computer crime**
- 2. responsibility for computer failure**
- 3. protection of computer property, records, and software**
- 4. privacy of the company, workers, and customers**

The paper should cite at least 6 references with footnotes and provide a bibliography. Additionally, the paper should be four pages minimum (excluding pictures and charts), with line spacing at 1.15, and Arial font <= 12 point)

In your paper, validate the importance of the investigated area by providing significant historical evidence.

**Do research and create an *interesting paper* addressing the major historical, contemporary, and future aspects of the problem area along with proposed solutions.**

**Submit to [mheinen\\_1@msn.com](mailto:mheinen_1@msn.com) as an as a MS Word.docx or \*pdf via email attachment NLT midnight, Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**