Ethical IT Innovation: A Value-Based System Design Approach

By Sarah Spiekermann

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Explaining how ubiquitous computing is rapidly changing our private and professional lives, **Ethical IT Innovation: A Value-Based System Design Approach** stands at the intersection of computer science, philosophy, and management and integrates theories and frameworks from all three domains.

The book explores the latest thinking on computer ethics, including the normative ethical theories currently shaping the debate over the good and bad consequences of technology. It begins by making the case as to why IT professionals, managers, and engineers must consider the ethical issues when designing IT systems, and then uses a recognized system development process model as the structural baseline for subsequent chapters.
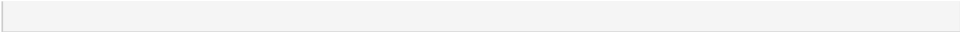
For each system development phase, the author discusses: the ethical issues that must be considered, who must consider them, and how that thought process can be most productive. In this way, an 'Ethical SDLC' (System Development Life Cycle) is created.

The book presents an extensive case study that applies the "Ethical SDLC" to the example of privacy protection in RFID enabled environments. It explains how privacy can be built into systems and illustrates how ethical decisions can be consciously made at each stage of development. The final chapter revisits the old debate of engineers' ethical accountability as well as the role of management.

Explaining the normative theories of computer ethics, the book explores the ethical accountability of developers as well as stakeholders. It also provides questions at the end of each chapter that examine the ethical dimensions of the various development activities.

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Editorial Review

Review

"... a breakthrough volume; it will stand as essential reading and a primary reference in the further development of ethics and IT design, most especially as informed by virtue ethics approaches."
?Professor Charles Ess, University of Oslo

"A fascinating, remarkable journey about the importance of ethics in the design and application of modern information technologies. Deeply researched and engrossing?a book all innovators should read."
?Professor Alessandro Acquisti, Carnegie Mellon University

"Full of clear and compelling examples, this book is an excellent guide for students, professional engineers, and for managers who want to ensure ethics and values are among the concerns teams account for during design."
? Professor Katie Shilton, University of Maryland

"I will take this book with me to technical conferences and meetings, and also keep a copy on my desk, both to refer to and to find relevant works in the literature list. **Ethical IT Innovatio**n is an important book that will hopefully have an impact in academic discourse, and, possibly more importantly, in shaping our information systems in the future."
?Bendert Zevenbergen, PhD student, Oxford University

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