

Raul Cabanellas

Professor O'Neill

CSCI 301

7 Feb 2024

The issue of copyright in the computing world is a complicated problem for computing professionals. The reason copyright is an issue in the computing world is that standard copyright can not easily be applied to computing. The second reason is because the field of computing is fairly recent so there are many in the field who are not knowledgeable about the limits of copyright. The way to address the issue of copyright is by applying a professional code of ethics. The standard for a professional code of ethics for computer science dictates that a code of ethics must contain a concern for safety, integrity, and respect for others' work.

The ACM code of ethics is a code that guides professionals in the computing field to make ethical decisions in computing(amc.org). The IEEE Code of Ethics is another professional code that has professionals accept responsibility for their technology by holding themselves to a standard to ensure ethical conduct(IEEE.org). The two codes of ethics share similarities as they both have clauses about not causing harm. Another clause they share is to not discriminate against others and to accept critiques on code. The difference between AMC and IEEE is that AMC is more detailed and adds extra obligations to be upheld compared to IEEE which is more general. An example of an extra obligation is to adhere to professional leadership principles. The two codes of ethics may have differences but their similarities make it clear what any professional code of ethics should contain.

The issue of copyright concerning the use of AI in generating art is problematic. First with the problem of some AI software using other people's art without permission. The second

issue, “So once an AI-generated masterpiece is created, what’s stopping someone from claiming it as their own and using it commercially or preventing others from using it?”(itsartlaw.org). The IEEE ethical code view on this matter is most likely the first problem is a clear violation of the code as it does not avoid a conflict of interests that the artist may have with the software. The IEEE's view on the second problem is that there is a responsibility for professionals to improve public understanding of the capabilities and implications of AI and to avoid unlawful usage. The IEEE ethical opinion is a great ethical opinion to have on this ethical issue. Based on the IEEE code the course of action that should be taken is to make clear guidelines on AI use for public awareness. Another course of action is to make the art generated be owned by the user but this action could cause conflicts of interest which violates IEEE code. AI-generated art has had several impacts on society such as negatively impacting the art industry as artists lose work and have their work stolen. Another impact is that there is more awareness of the potential of AI which is good as the AI industry becomes more developed.

The open-source guide is about the issue of copyright in open-source code and the legal requirements for the requirement such as licensing (opensource.guide). Copyright concerning the creation of open source code is that by default open source code is exclusive copyright. The license agreement that is fair for code would be the MIT license since it has adaptability, more control, and ease of use. There would need to be another license based on the type of project and who is involved most likely the Apache 2.0 for big companies.

The professional code of ethics wants programmers to ensure they have the right permissions to reuse code from the internet. Programmers should avoid using copied code for purposes that the original owner does not approve. Reused code should not cause harm, not profit off it without permission, and should credit the owner.

Works Cited

“AMC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.” AMC, www.acm.org/code-of-ethics.

Accessed 9 Feb. 2024.

“Art-Istic or Art-Ificial? Ownership and Copyright Concerns in AI-Generated Artwork.”

itsartlaw, itsartlaw.org/2022/11/21/artistic-or-artificial-ai/. Accessed 9 Feb. 2024.

“IEEE Code of Ethics.” IEEE, www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html.

Accessed 8 Feb. 2024.

“The Legal Side of Open Source.” Open Source Guides, opensource.guide/legal/.

Accessed 8 Feb. 2024.