

## Engineering Ethics Case Study

### ELEC 3040 / 3050 - Spring 2015

Origins of the *IEEE Code of Ethics* have been traced by some researchers to as early as 1906, and the AIEE adopted a code of conduct in 1912. The IEEE was founded in 1963 from the merger of the AIEE and IRE, and the current Code of Ethics was adopted in 1974.

#### **Assignment:**

1. Review the *IEEE Code of Ethics* (in the class presentation).
2. Study the following overview article from IEEE Spectrum. The topic is "Net Neutrality."

Willie Jones, "Infographic: Defining Net Neutrality Without the Politics," IEEE Spectrum, 26 Feb 2015

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/telecom/internet/defining-net-neutrality-without-the-politics>

3. Then read the following article, which is referenced by the article above, and is also from IEEE Spectrum:

Jeff Hecht, "Net Neutrality's Technical Troubles," IEEE Spectrum, 12 Feb 2015

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/internet/net-neutralitys-technical-troubles>

4. In view of (1)-(3) above, write a report discussing net neutrality. The report should:
  - a. Identify one or more tenets of the IEEE Code of Ethics that might be considered in view of net neutrality.
  - b. Identify and explain the ethical dilemma(s). A *dilemma* implies multiple unfavorable choices (stuck between a rock and a hard place). Therefore, explain the two or more unsatisfactory choices, i.e. what are the choices, and why are they unsatisfactory?
  - c. Propose possible solutions that solve the ethical dilemma. Solutions should consider the IEEE Code of Ethics.
  - d. Discuss how socio-economic and political concerns may affect the proposed solution(s).

The "Ethics Grading Rubric", posted on the course web page, indicates what will be considered in grading the reports.