

Abstract

Is society moving their ethics to the side of the road to make way for the information highway? Is society more unethical today, than ever before because of technology? The use of computer-assisted programs in corporate training and education has increased considerably in the past twenty-five years. However, the rapidly emerging technology has potential risks if adequate principled safeguards are not developed. Professional educators and training programs must adopt leadership roles, ethical positions, and standards of operation to guard against unwarranted access of information and issues of confidentiality. The amount and type of data to store, recovery rights, study uses, and networking databases must be attended to. Learning programs should develop computer knowledge in their learners, but more importantly prepare them to be moral information workers at home, work, and play. As our society becomes overloaded with information and the overwhelming number of choices available through effortlessly accessible technology, the learner must be trained to support the organizational culture by becoming self-fulfilled at a technological and a personal level. Unfortunately, this is not an easy accomplishment. Additionally, from an operational perspective, any integration of computers into an organization is obliged to also include provisions for on-going evaluation, maintenance, and updating of the organizations stance on ethics and technology. As a final point, a people network, and clearinghouses for the exchange of principled programs and ideas must be supported and developed at the highest level in the organization. It starts at the top and trickles downward. Only then is it soaked into the ethical fabric that safeguards the institution from potential immoral quandaries relating to technology.