Using drama to introduce ethics to technology students and practitioners

Conference or Workshop Item

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The poster describes the use of Joe Penhallow's play Landscape with Weapon as a tool for teaching ethics to technology students and practitioners. The play involves a father and son discussing ethical questions related to technology development and manufacture, which can be used as a teaching tool in various formats for download and reuse. The play is based on a relationship between a character who is an engineer and his professional practice, exploring ethical positions and the responsibilities of engineers in their work. The play also touches on the concept of intellectual property rights (IPR) and the potential harm that technology can cause. The play encourages ethical reasoning and the consideration of ethical issues in professional practice.

**INTRODUCTION**

The play 'Landscape with Weapon' is a three-act play in which a father and son discuss ethical questions related to technology development and manufacture. Although it is not always clearly recognised, it is in the everyday routine consultations and dealings of people that ethical questions are raised. The play is designed to provoke discussion and understanding of the ethical issues that arise in technology-related contexts. The play can function as an allegory representing issues and questions of relevance to an audience of practitioners in a variety of areas of technology development.

**INTRODUCING ETHICS IN ICS**

Unit overview

Ethics is an established area of academic interest, but it is only fairly recently that the relevance of ethics to ICS started to emerge. The core of the Unit is based upon an analysis of ethical issues and how these relate to the profession of technology development and manufacture. The Unit uses a range of strategies to encourage students and professionals to identify, discuss, and understand ethical issues in their professional practice.

Introducing Ethics in Information and Computer Sciences explores the idea that drama and digital tools provide powerful methods for helping students and professionals to identify, discuss, and understand ethical issues in their professional practice. The Unit development has capitalised on the lessons and feedback gathered during a trial course run by the authors in 2008 with a small group of students and professionals. The Unit is available shortly in various formats for download and reuse within a Creative Commons License.

**LANDSCAPE WITH WEAPON**

An allegory

Landscape with Weapon centres on the development and exploitation of a weapon system. Ned, the artist, as a developer, is involved in the development of a product that has the potential to cause harm. Any weapon system will inevitably cause fatalities if used. In the play, Ned has an idea, but other people also have different ideas. Although the play raises big questions concerning technological development and manufacture, it remains within the context of a father and son discussing ethical issues. The play involves a number of challenging ethical questions, which can be useful in teaching and learning.

**ETHICAL STANCES**

As a developer, Ned has to make decisions about the technology he is working on. He has to consider the potential for harm and the ethical implications of his work. Ned believes that technology has the potential to cause injury or death, and he is concerned about the ethical implications of his work. The play also explores the role of emotions in ethical deliberations and the importance of ethical positions.

**LANDSCAPE WITH WEAPON**

Some lessons

The unit includes discussions on the development of a weapon that has the potential to cause harm. The play involves a number of challenging ethical questions, which can be useful in teaching and learning.

**Synopsis**

The play involves a number of ethical issues, such as the potential harm that technology can cause, the ethical implications of decision-making, and the role of emotions in ethical deliberations. The play explores the potential for harm and the ethical implications of decision-making. The play also touches on the concept of intellectual property rights (IPR) and the potential harm that technology can cause. The play encourages ethical reasoning and the consideration of ethical issues in professional practice.