

***Living the Standard-
How Can the Information and Knowledge
Society Live to an Ethical and FAIR Standard
and Leave Nobody Behind***

Don Gotterbarn

Ethics Specialist

ACM | IFIP

Living the Standard

The role of Ethics

Training and Practice (Ethics)



- Education, training, practice, socialization
 - Technical skills, social skills, (ethics)
- Ethics: Systems of ideas debated by philosophers- 2000 + years-academic study
- ETHICS ?: Any behavior with a Positive or Negative impact on society, its citizens, or the environment (cultural and natural)
- Professional computing/ICT ethics is:
 - Any behavior of computing professionals during the design, development, construction, and maintenance of computing artifacts that affects other people.
- **ETHICKING** -Applying values to make proactive ethical decisions... *should* be easy

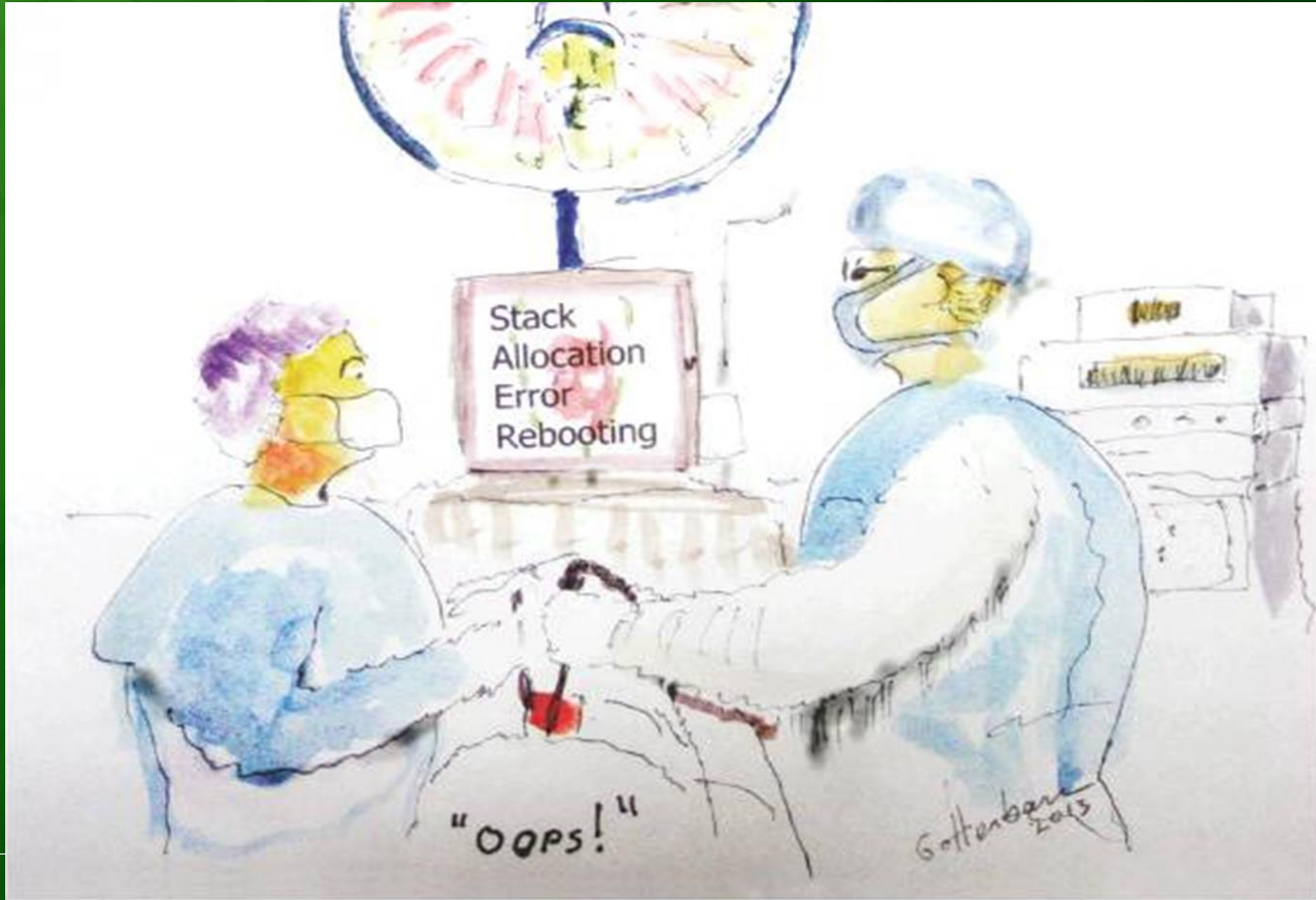
Fatal Premise

- I am a good person.
- “Evil is done by evil people.” QED
 - I can focus on other things besides ethics; I am a good person !
 - An ethical non participant
- The Fatal Premise –
 - We miss the opportunity to increase positive outcomes and reduce negative ones
 - Professionals need to be in a permanent state of ethical introspection

Framing Out

- Divide and conquer- eliminate distractions.
- Put a frame around the context we are focusing on
 - Only winning matters- use of performance enhancing drugs in sports
 - Only profit matters- save money (in the short term) by minimize safety
 - Ethics frame goals missed – be fair, don't cheat
 - Consider others as stakeholders in your decisions
- Framing out is sometimes missed
 - We do things that we think have nothing to do with ethics.

Error message during surgery



Anatomy of an ethical decision

- First an immediate intuitive reaction
- Second is slower, more conscious, and uses more cognitive attention and energy
- Consider stakeholders, ethical elements, impacts, alternatives, and tradeoffs.

- A Code of Ethics give voice to values- the conscience of a profession
 - Guidance in decision making –Ethicking
 - Recognize positive opportunities
 - Educate the professional and the public

- NOT Enough

Pre-commitment & Pre-aware

- Seal your desired course of action
- Consider your choices
 - A more deliberative process; move from unconscious to conscious decisions
 - Consider abstract principles in Professional Ethical Codes
- Pre-commitment needs to be repeated to avoid ethical fading.
- All decisions that affects other people have a moral implication that requires balancing values expressed in code of ethics.
- Interaction of Technology and Values should not be haphazard.



WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

- As Grady Booch has said
- “Every line of code has a moral and ethical implication.”
- just as every decision that we make that affects other people has a moral implication
- Technology and values should not be haphazard.



WSIS +15 FORUM 2020