

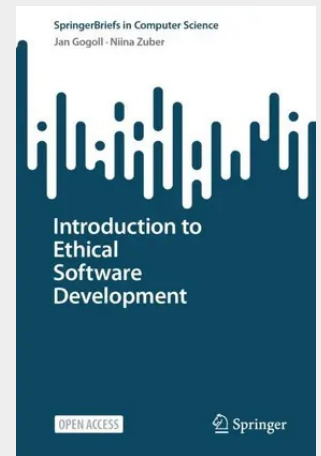
Introduction to Ethical Software Development

This open access book bridges the gap between ethical theory and software practice. It introduces foundational concepts in digital ethics, highlights the distinctive nature of software as a technology, and offers a systematic approach to integrating ethics into the development process.

The book is structured in eight chapters: it starts with an presenting a historical overview that puts the relation between ethics and technology (with software as a special kind of technology) in context. Next, explores various philosophical perspectives on technology and underlines why software producers carry a significant ethical responsibility. then explores the ethical imperative for software development and advocates for a dynamic hybrid approach that combines universal ethical principles with context-sensitive, participatory methods, while introduces the foundational concepts of ethics and explores their relevance for software development. Subsequently, explores the central role of values in ethical software development discussions. then addresses the foundational phase of ethical practice and examines the epistemic challenge of identifying morally significant aspects in software design, and examines the challenges of ethical decision-making in software development and highlights the necessity of ethical deliberation to navigate value conflicts such as usability versus explainability, and safety versus autonomy. Eventually, underlines the crucial role organizational structures play in enabling ethical deliberation within software development.

The book offers practitioners a clear orientation in the increasingly bewildering landscape of normative demands, value lists, ethical guidelines, and codes of conduct that have emerged around ethically informed software development. It especially aims at practitioners, product managers, policymakers, and students who wish to understand the ethical dimensions of the software systems they develop or regulate.

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