Instructions
This is your final writing assignment. It will not be peer graded, so only the course staff will see what you write. Again, we just ask that you engage with the prompt honestly and in good faith. That is the main criteria we will use for grading.

Personal Ethical Code
Over the course of this semester, we’ve explored the basics of philosophical ethics. We then applied the ethical theories we learned to a series of current ethical concerns facing computer scientists today. This week, we’re learning how the ACM and IEEE define ethical behavior for professionals in our field. Those are the standards the CS profession has set for itself as a whole, but what standards will you set for yourself? In this assignment, we’re asking you to articulate your own personal professional ethical code. To what standard of morality will you hold yourself as you enter the workforce? Below, you’ll find some questions to help you articulate your views. You don’t have to answer all of them.

Begin with your ethical philosophy. Are you a deontologist, utilitarian, or virtue ethicist? Do you ascribe to a contract-based ethics perspective? Do you ascribe to some combination of these ethical theories? Ground your ethics in solid philosophical reasoning and logical argumentation. As a CS professional, how will you “know the good side from the bad?”

We discussed many ethical issues in class (e.g. privacy, security, intellectual property, and the digital divide) as well as current events and emerging technologies. Do you feel particularly concerned about any of them? Are there any policy changes you will fight for? As a professional, do you feel any particular obligations to society as a whole?

How will you conduct yourself as a CS professional? What moral challenges do you anticipate in your career? How will you resolve them? Are there principles or beliefs you would never compromise on? Are there duties to which you have an obligation or virtues you hope to cultivate? What are they? Be specific.

Are there tenants of the ACM and IEEE professional codes with which you strongly agree or disagree? What are they, and why do you feel this way? Is there any practice you’d be particularly disappointed to find yourself or your employer engaged in? Is there any behavior an employer could engage in that would cause you to either quit your job or blow the whistle? Is there any company, industry, or organization for which you would refuse to work? Why?

You’re about to enter a fast-paced workplace in a rapidly changing field. “Words are wind,” as the saying goes. How will you put these words you’ve written into practice? How will you hold yourself accountable to your personal ethical code? What will you do to make sure you don’t compromise your values or behave immorally?