Professional Practice

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18th August 2010
Austin Lecture Theatre

Overview

- The distinguishing feature of a profession is that the practitioners are governed not only by the law of the land but also by a code of ethics administered by the profession itself.
- Over time, professions win and keep self-regulation of professional standards. Governments expect, in return, for self-regulation to be effective and for professionals to help the community in a variety of volunteer activities.
- As computer professionals, you may decide to act as enthusiasts for your profession and its ability to transform lives.
Definition of a Profession

Professions Australia

"A profession is a disciplined group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards and who hold themselves out as, and are accepted by the public as possessing, special knowledge and skills in a widely recognised body of learning derived from research, education and training at a high level, and who are prepared to apply this knowledge and exercise these skills in the interest of others. It is inherent in the definition of a profession that a code of ethics governs the activities of each profession. Such codes require behaviour and practice beyond the personal moral obligations of an individual. They define and demand high standards of behaviour in respect to the services provided to the public and in dealing with professional colleagues. Further, these codes are enforced by the profession and are acknowledged and accepted by the community."

Adopted, Annual General Meeting, 26 May 1997

The Computer Science Profession

- Australian Council of Professions
- Australian Computer Society
  [www.acs.org.au](http://www.acs.org.au)
- ACS Code of Ethics
Who else are professionals?

- Architects
- Engineers
- Dentists
- Accountants
- Pharmacists
- Quantity Surveyors

and many more

Things you can do

- Educate
- Finance
- Persuade
- Enable
- Lead
Things you can do now

- WAIX – www.waia.asn.au
- FreeNet – www.wafreenet.org
- Open Source – www.linux.org.au
- Civil liberties – www.efa.org.au

Some content ideas

- www.archive.org – Wayback
- www.wikipedia.org – Encyclopaedia
- www.austlii.edu.au – Law Resources
- www.apc.org.au – Activism
- www.acs.org.au/wa/ – Professional
- www.ipl.org/ – Librarian’s Net Index and Internet Public Library
- Blog!
Thank you.

Any Questions?

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