Final Assignment – Professional Ethics for Software Engineers

Write a paper on the topic of “professional ethics for software engineers”.

Length: 5 pages double-spaced (minimum).

Base the paper on the following material from the book Readings in CyberEthics, 2nd edition, Spinello & Tavani, eds., Jones and Bartlett (2004):

- “Introduction to Chapter 6: Professional Ethics, Codes of Conduct and Computer/Information Professionals”
- Elizabeth Buchanan, “Ethical Considerations for the Information Professions”
- “ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct”
- Chuck Huff, “Unintentional Power in the Design of Computer Systems”
- Don Gotterbarn, “Reducing Software Failures: Address Ethical Risks with Software Development Impact Statements (SoDIS)”

(I have placed two copies of this book in Walsh 103 – please do not remove them from the building.)

In addition to the above, use the following document that can be found on-line:

“Ten Commandments of Computer Ethics”, from the Computer Ethics Institute

Finally, feel free to use other credible on-line (or other) sources.

Provide a bibliography in which you reference all your sources. In addition to listing online sources in your bibliography, send me the URL’s of any online sources in an e-mail so that I can check the sources.

Contents:

- Give a summary of what is usually included in “professional ethics for software engineers”.
- Describe how professional ethics would/could impact the implementation of the system you worked on this semester.
- Give your own evaluation of the importance of a professional code of ethics. In particular address the question: What effect will a professional code of ethics have on you five years from now?