Chapter 2 Ethics for IT Professionals and IT Users

Key Terms

- **Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)** – a computing society founded in 1947 that offers many publications and an extensive digital library, and sponsors various special-interest groups focusing on a variety of IT issues.

- **Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP)** – provides IT-related education, information on relevant IT issues, and forums for networking with other IT professionals.

- **breach of the duty of care** – failure to act as a reasonable person would act.

- **bribe** – money, property or favors to someone in business or government to obtain a business advantage.

- **Business Software Alliance (BSA)** – a trade group that represents the world’s largest software and hardware manufacturers, whose mission is to stop unauthorized copying of software produced by its members.

- **Computer Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-CS)** – one of the oldest and largest IT professional associations, with more than 100,000 members founded in 1946.

- **duty of care** – an obligation to protect people against any unreasonable harm or risk.

- **enterprise resource planning system (ERP)** – an information system that helps an organization control business functions, including forecasting, production planning, purchasing, inventory control, manufacturing and distribution.

- **firewall** – a hardware or software device that serves as a barrier between a company and the outside world and limits access to the company’s network.

- **IT user** – the person for whom a hardware or software product is designed.

- **negligence** – not doing something that a reasonable person would do, or doing something that a reasonable person would not do.

- **profession** – a calling that requires specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation.

- **professional code of ethics** – states the principles and core values that are essential to the work of a particular occupational group.

- **professional employee** – A person whose work requires advanced training and experience, who exercises discretion and judgment in their work, and whose work cannot
be standardized.

- **professional malpractice** – liability for injuries caused by breaches of the duty of care.

- **Project Management Institute (PMI)** – established in 1969 and has more than 150,000 members who are project managers from fields such as construction, and finance as well as information systems.

- **reasonable person standard** – a standard by which the courts decide whether a party owes a duty of care, by determining how an objective careful and conscientious person would have acted in the same circumstances.

- **reasonable professional standard** – analogous to a reasonable personal standard, but applied to defendants who have particular expertise.

- **résumé inflation** – lying on a résumé and claiming competence in an IT skill that is in high demand.

- **software piracy** – the act of illegally making copies of software or enabling others to access software to which they are not entitled.

- **trade secret** – information used in a business, generally unknown to the public, that the company has taken strong measures to keep confidential.

- **U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)** – a set of laws that make it a crime to bribe a foreign official, a foreign political party official or candidate for political office, unless the payment was legal in the country in which it was paid.

- **whistle-blowing** – an effort by an employee to attract attention to a negligent, illegal, unethical, abusive, or dangerous act by a company that threatens the public interest.