

Code of Professional Ethics for Simulationists

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Abstract

The proposed code of professional ethics for simulationists covers the following five areas: Personal development and the profession, professional competence, trustworthiness, property rights and due credit, and compliance with the code.

PREAMBLE

Simulationists are professionals involved in modelling and simulation activities and/or with providing modelling and simulation products and/or services. A detailed definition of the term “simulationist” is given by Ören [2000a, b]. Rationale for this code is given in Ören [2002].

1. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROFESSION

As a simulationist I will:

- 1.1 Acquire and maintain professional competence and attitude.
- 1.2 Treat fairly employees, clients, users, colleagues, and employers.
- 1.3 Encourage and support new entrants to the profession.

1.4 Support fellow practitioners and members of other professions who are engaged in modelling and simulation.

1.5 Assists colleagues to achieve reliable results.

1.6 Promote the reliable and credible use of modelling and simulation.

1.7 Promote the modelling and simulation profession; e.g., advance public knowledge and appreciation of modelling and simulation and clarify and counter false or misleading statements.

2. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

As a simulationist I will:

2.1 Assure product and/or service quality by the use of proper methodologies and technologies.

2.2 Seek, utilize, and provide critical professional review.

2.3 Recommend and stipulate proper and achievable goals for any project.

2.4 Document simulation studies and/or systems comprehensibly and accurately to authorized parties.

2.5 Provide full disclosure of system design assumptions and known limitations and problems to authorized parties.

- 2.6 Be explicit and unequivocal about the conditions of applicability of specific models and associated simulation results.
- 2.7 Caution against acceptance of modelling and simulation results when there is insufficient evidence of thorough validation and verification.
- 2.8 Assure thorough and unbiased interpretations and evaluations of the results of modelling and simulation studies.

3. TRUSTWORTHINESS

As a simulationist I will:

- 3.1 Be honest about any circumstances that might lead to conflict of interest.
- 3.2 Honor contracts, agreements, and assigned responsibilities and accountabilities.
- 3.3 Help develop an organizational environment that is supportive of ethical behavior.
- 3.4 Support studies which will not harm humans (current and future generations) as well as environment.

4. PROPERTY RIGHTS AND DUE CREDIT

As a simulationist I will:

- 4.1 Give full acknowledgement to the contributions of others.
- 4.2 Give proper credit for intellectual property.
- 4.3 Honor property rights including copyrights and patents.
- 4.4 Honor privacy rights of individuals and organizations as well as confidentiality of the relevant data and knowledge.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE

As a simulationist I will:

- 5.1 Adhere to this code and encourage other simulationists to adhere to it
- 5.2 Treat violations of this code as inconsistent with being a simulationist.
- 5.3 Seek advice from professional colleagues when faced with an ethical dilemma in modelling and simulation activities.
- 5.4 Advise any professional society which supports this code of desirable updates.

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Elzas has been a proponent of ethics in modelling and simulation [Elzas 2000; Kettenis 2000]. The codes of professional ethics of the following groups have been sources of inspiration in the preparation of this document: ACM, CEPIS, CIPS, IEEE, and IEEE-CS/ACM Joint Task Force. This code has benefitted from the recommendations of Dr. John Gardenier.

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