

## What are ethics?

- Rules of right and wrong behavior
- Usually based on values
- Information ethics are the rules that define right and wrong behavior in the computing professions.

## Ethics vs. Laws

- Laws are established to protect software developers and users.
- Laws have penalties associated with them.
- Ethics are based on principles and values.
- Generally there is no punishment for ethics violation.

## Copyright

- A law based on ethical principles.
- Defined as the rights possessed by the author of a work.
  - Includes copying, reselling, leasing, lending, renting, and/or distributing the material, publicly displaying or performing the work, and transferring the copyright
- Software or data is automatically copyrighted by its creator as soon as it is in tangible (recorded) form.
- Usually defined in the License Agreement.

## Software Licensing

- License agreements are contracts between the purchaser and the copyright owner
- Types of licenses
  - **Public domain license** – not protected by copyright law; rare and often unreliable
  - **Freeware license** – can be copied and distributed without charge but prohibits sale and modification; examples: Netscape and Internet Explorer
  - **Shareware license** – like freeware but owner stipulates a purchase fee for permanent use; only for evaluation purposes

## Software Licensing cont.

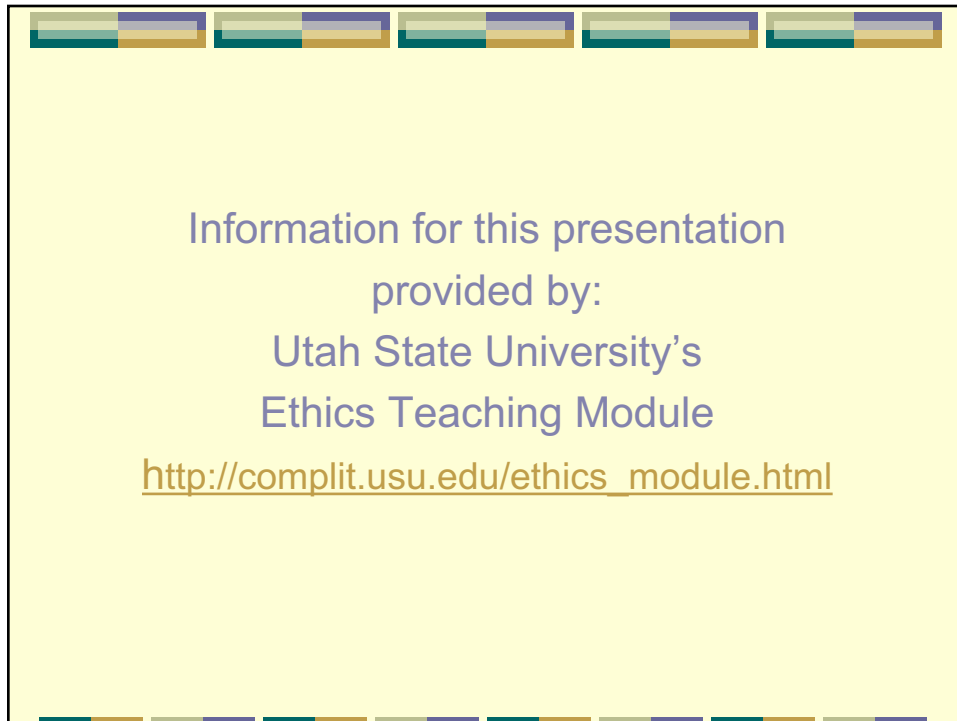
- **Software license with all rights reserved** – licensed only for use by purchaser; owner reserves all rights given them under copyright law
- **Open Source**-license for software that makes the source code available under terms that allow for modification, redistribution and use without having to pay the original author.

## Give Credit where Credit is Due

- DMCA have “fair use” provisions that let you paraphrase or quote small portions of someone else’s work as long as you give proper credit to the author for the material used.
- Quoting and citing information is just as important with computer sources as with traditional written works.
- When using work created by someone, ALWAYS give the creator credit.

## Acceptable Use Policy

- Outlines what types of uses are acceptable and which are prohibited
- Define rights and responsibilities in using equipment in a legal and ethical manner
- Most have the following information
  - Storage location and types of files allowed
  - E-mail and personal file privacy
  - Monitoring on-line activities
  - Care of equipment
  - Policies concerning games, personal Web browsing, chat and instant messages
  - Software and plug-in installation
  - Unacceptable e-mail or Web page viewing



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