

Ethics of information technology in the context of a global worldview

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Abstract – The present scientific paper outlines in today’s contemporary world - where everything is as it seems at first glance, subordinated to the economy, technology and politics are essentially ruled by ethics, value attitudes, which in that or otherwise find embodiment for purposes activities. After all, the question of goals, intentions is the question about values. The paper underlines that modern information technology has sharpened the problem of the values of the human spirit and choice further path of our world civilization. Everyone remembers the 20th century with its socio-cultural contradictions. And the scale of the achievements, and the scale of destruction committed by people in the twentieth century, incomparable with any other times in its history. The present paper emphasizes that if we want to keep human moral values in the information sphere, then is the technology itself sufficient for this, creating suitable programs forcing save them? Of course, working in networks and not consider off-grid the laws impossible. The paper concludes that what will this process lead to, hard to say. One thing is clear now: interacting with a digital computer, we inevitably become different. Society becomes others. And to regret it is nostalgia for past, it is sweet - meaningless. Like us modern peace or not - but this is reality life, and of them desirable proceed if we want to impact on construction our future.

Keywords – Information Technology; Ethical Dilemmas; Information Ethics; Global Information Society; Virtual Reality; Ethical Approach; Global Worldview.

I. INTRODUCTION

We may say for certain that surely the our world is so objective now complex, dynamic, uncertain, that a person is not able to know anything forward what will happen with confidence and certainty, despite the power of cognitive funds, which he disposes [and mathematics, and available scientific knowledge, and computing and information systems) and on his often good intentions. Procedure adopting decisions extremely got complicated.

Man increasingly wants to strengthen himself the measure of all things. Thriving ethical theory to our time became a quite interesting conception of global worldview is called Emotivism. As it is generally known Emotivism¹ is a doctrine

¹ “Emotivism is a theory that claims that moral language or judgments: a. is either true or false; b. expresses our emotions; and c. tries to influence others to agree with us. Emotivists believe that moral language

according to which all value judgments (all moral judgments) is nothing but expressions preferences, installations or feelings, if they are moral or evaluative character [1].

Moreover, in these conditions, it is not easy the question turns out to be: what fundamental principles, what values does a person ultimately want and can follow? Does he focus on the idea of good as perfection or to the concept of consumption, which in the conditions of the almost absolutely total domination of hedonism is transformed into the idea of good? Everybody worries this dilemma, expressed in the well-known aphorism of the German social psychologist and philosopher Erich Fromm’s social worldview theory² “to have or to be” [2] and we are interested here in the Georgian researchers - Ibraim Didmanidze, Zebur Beridze and Irma Bagrationi’s opinion on the “gathering, processing and the ethical analysis of the organizational information” [2].

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

II.1. On the Essence of Ethics of Information Technology in the Context of a Global Worldview:

There are three known positions in the topic of technology relationship and values. They are formulated, in particular, Ian Graeme Barbour³: 1. Technology as a liberator. It supplies

age expresses emotions and tries to influence others; it has no cognitive content. If I say homosexuality is evil, I’m just expressing my feeling that homosexuality is disgusting! I am expressing my emotions and, at the same time, trying to influence you to dislike homosexuality. The same analysis applies to any moral judgment” [see: <https://reasonandmeaning.com/2016/11/26/emotivism/>]

² Erich Fromm’s famous work “Man for Himself: An Inquiry into the Psychology of Ethics” [first published in 1947] continued and enriched the ideas “Escape of Freedom” – especially – the theory of human nature and character. As it is seen from the social research - Erich Fromm “tries to transfer ethical attitude about human nature in the sphere of management organization; especially each organization, existing in the business sphere, has its own values, which create the so-called organization culture. The coincidence of these values conditions the successful operation of the organization. A human should consider self-development as a valuable thing and should want to realize one’s potential, then he will try to make maximum profit for his firm i. e. their interests coincide. In this case, maximum profit is defined only by the qualification of a man. If a firm is satisfied with fixed importance from the worker, then we must resist the issue – a man is oriented on self-development if his main value is money. Accordingly, in Fromm’s opinion – two Ethics coexist in the business organization: authoritarian and humanistic” [see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Fromm <https://sgemsocial.org/index.php/elibrary-research-areas?view=publication&task=show&id=3832>]

³ Despite his success as a physics professor, American theologian and scientist Barbour chose to move in a new direction in 1953, enrolling

good for people and from here optimistic views on technology. 2. Technology as a threat. Great are human technology costs: monotony in a mass society, narrow criteria of efficiency, impersonality and manipulation, uncontrollable technologies, alienation, impoverishment of human relations. From here there is a criticism of technologies and their pessimistic assessment. 3. Technology as an instrument of power, or contextual assessment: technology itself is neither good nor bad; it is just a tool, a tool whose application depends on social context. Each of the three positions has many options, but each of them emphasizes that or some other value. The fourth position seems to be taking shape: recognition the fact that technologies are included in the system of human goal-setting, and “the emphasis on character and community wisdom increases the possibility of idiosyncratic and unsound decision making” [3].

Man can only want something if he already has by means of technology achievements this something. So we're going to live longer since there are corresponding biotechnologies based on genetics. When these technologies were not there, we did not set such a goal.

All the more insistently make themselves felt ethical issues of technological activity person. There are formed yet and Biological ethics, and environmental ethics, and biomedical ethics, and the ethics of information and communication technologies. Information technology plays a special role among new digital technologies by social and global theoretical worldview. Technically, they are at the heart of all other technologies and at the heart of the emerging cultural global information society. Information technology is closely related to industry, government, economic structures authorities, with personal human life.

The power of networking technologies many times over multiplies thanks to virtual technology reality. They open up new opportunities for the system of power relations: allow replace straight social control and the impact is mediated. Instead of direct requirements and restrictions virtual reality invites us to fascinating worlds and travels. Instead of rough or more or less mild suppression free involvement occurs.

The virtual symbolic environment is made our reality. Virtual culture reality is a world of images, interpreted signs and symbols. You can say information society culture filled with simulacra. The civilization world of simulacra owes much of its existence to technical information technology. So, for example, on the internet human communicates with model another, and not with the other. Media Machine Absorbing Products computer revolution blurs the boundaries between simulated and real, between cultural spectacle and politics. Information technology that enriches virtual worlds has great success and is developing intensively. Virtual reality is something added to the world, created by people, which is computer reality, sensual reality, vital, environmental, in which events is here and now.

The human life world has become different – new opportunities have opened up for disclosure “your spiritual world of your “I” and to hide it. Doesn't meet face to face man with others human, how it was in Ancient Epoch or in Middle Ages” [4]. Direct personal communication by voice, behavior, gestures or at least with a weapon went into past. Not only we send rockets on the enemy generally, but also communicate online with abstract, in fact, we serve as a person and ourselves as a partial person – in some role. It's interesting to note that according to the Georgian and Russian professors –

Ibraim Didmanidze, Irma Bagrationi, Vladimir Ulanov and Nataliia Matrosova's scientific discussion “information technology and educational centers are head divisions in system of the entrepreneur establishments: maintenance statistical, operative-help and other information, and also computerizations and constructions of regional information networks” [5]. The Virtual world of the internet becomes ours element. In him the eternal man's dream of his freedom: to do what want, outside of any prohibitions. And here it is in the sphere of permissiveness, a person comprehends himself: their innermost deep values, what he regards as good, and what as evil, what he allows himself and what does not. How it's not strange, the machine in the person of information technology becomes an instrument of knowledge by the user himself [6]; and the network is an empirical basis for psychology and sociology. On the one hand, man can hide himself, be anonymous, put on a mask, and on the other side, is exposed his inner self, his fundamental values, his moral principles.

II. 2. On the peculiarities of Ethics of Information Technology in the Context of a Global Worldview:

Information technologies have penetrated in all spheres Human life brought with a new language, new styles and new fashion. The habitat turned out to be unusual and almost impossible for those who were born in times of book culture. Feeling alien this new world and its unnaturalness for them. But these changes found themselves not local, but global. According to a Georgian scientist Irma Bagrationi's outlook “as a consequence of these core assumptions, we focused on the concrete and mundane internet information practices carried out by online intercultural communication” [7]

Has changed under the influence of information technology and the external environment human life, and his inner world...? Information technologies play significant role in the formation consumer attitudes in society, providing attractive items for consumption, awe-inspiring and pleasing sensuality. For example, information technology develops love for gadgets, for their consumption for the sake of fashion. At the same time, one cannot fail to notice the influence, mind-changing user - his rationality is brought up. For example, Makes study classify knowledge; refer the name of interest to this or that ethical class of words or problems; “history and theoretical foundation of information and computer Ethics, the state of computer Ethics as a philosophical field of inquiry: some contemporary perspectives, future projections, and current resources; computer systems: moral entities but not moral agents” [8]. Develop systemic thinking, for any communication through information technology includes human in real working, but not abstract system.

There is one way or another, no doubt huge impact of information technology on our civilization. The power of information Technology manifests itself in that they:

- are a means of influencing economy, culture, science, technology, other technologies;
- create a new sphere of reality;
- Virtual reality (practical activity person in world of electronic objects);
- change Lifestyle human and his spiritual peace [9].

Who supplies information technology? Their manufacturer is the community information technology professionals and companies. The emerging information technology community, from the point of view of its internal structure, is as a system of norms and values. Norms outline the circle of the permissible, possible, acceptability of behavior within the community. Values determine what is due, in the name of which people in their actions follow the accepted norms. Community information technology manufacturers include specialists with higher and secondary qualifications in the

at Yale Divinity School to study Theology and Ethics. Even before completing his divinity degree in 1956, he was appointed to teach in both the religion & physics departments of Carleton College in Northfield [see: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ian-Barbour>]

information and communication sphere, and business managers (people business) different status.

This process of building the information technology community just started but happens enough quickly. An important feature of the information sphere technology versus previous science lies in their close connection with the business, with economy. This gives rise to its ethical dilemmas and ethical approach and problems. They are caused by the fact that the information technology professional is a participant in the implementation of practical actions, which is always morally painted. Information technology companies are subjects Business Ethics. Many of them support development of ethical dilemmas and aspects of activity information technology companies.

The number of information technology professionals is quite large. At one time, a Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset in his work "The Rise of the Masses" paid attention to the fact that it may well belong to the "mass" scientist, scientific employee [10]. Now, in the contemporary century, when the product of the specialist's activity is goods, especially so demanded as information product, found themselves especially are important their moral foundations, insofar as in their hands located information. Are important their motives, why and for what purpose they acquire his profession. After all, they are included in the mass society, may be in different degree, and share its values.

We must note here that the object immanent circle of information technology users is very wide: it is both a person and an legal or public institutional organization, and the state, and in perspective constructing global information society the total use of them is seen. A user can be a child playing with a gadget, the media, an organization, an individual, and a state security institution. They have different goals, different possibilities and different reactions to information technologies.

Gradually among users personal computer, everything appears more people for whom the computer is just a black box that works by unknown they didn't interested their principles. Now the average person will not disassemble the TV and fix it. A digital computer becomes the same device that works by itself and does not require for this participation user. The number of practical users is becoming more and more [10]. Thus, the computer literacy has now become a kind of personality trait: diligence, punctuality, responsibility. Share of skilled professional users among them decreases.

III. DISCUSSION

Accordingly, it is very interesting here for us active, operative theoretical and axiological discussion on the scientific and worldview and ideological ethical issues. Information technology development brings with it not only the growth of the achievements of mankind, but also the danger. How do they manifest themselves and what are their reasons or cause and motive for them? The new socio-reality produces new sphere relations between people and new types relationship. The rules governing them are established both spontaneously in practice and deliberately. Arise whether new moral rules or the same old apply to a new region?

It is worrying that information technology is being used effectively by criminals. Cyberspace is bad lends itself strict legislative regulation, therefore is increasing importance ethical approach. But in the global network in different regions there is neither ethical nor legal unity. The rapid development of the Internet is causing fears. Is it necessary and possible to enter control measures and related legal framework? The internet is evolving, becoming structural technology and transforming society online. The complexity of the global information space stipulates need critical review access, intellectual property, privacy life of citizens, security

and human rights and dialogue over geographic, linguistic and cultural barriers. Concerns related to the development of the Internet, are rooted in the peculiarities of this technology: it is outside the control of society and requires change behavior and habits cultural and global society.

To investigate these problems there is International Center for Information Ethics established (info-ethics). Are underway researches in the area of Computer Ethics, Internet Ethics and Cyber Ethics? In leading educational institutions the world is found educational discipline on Computer Ethics (one name still was not installed). One of the main tasks is shaping personal principles Ethics of social responsibility as at work place, and in the life of society as a whole. Ethics of responsibility is not built on the idea of good for him, but it follows from understanding the situation, in which the subject is here and now. It includes both debt and impact assessment [11]. Of course the problem gets complicated and the fact that values societies and the values of the professional community may not match. Illustrated is famous example from medical practice: the operation was performed perfectly - the patient died. Information Ethics includes Professional Ethics, User Ethics and some issues of state policy.

It is best-known for us that World Summits on the Information Society in Geneva (2003) and in Tunisia (2005) devoted to the legal ethical analysis of the different sides the emerging global information society. In the Declaration of Principles, adopted in Tunisia, Principle Five states: "The information society must be based on ethical and moral values and provide conditions under which in full human dignity is respected and strengthened" [9]. As ethical moral values information society, as well as generally accepted, such as peace, freedom thoughts, conscience and religion, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect to nature, particularly important values truthfulness, trust, honesty are recognized, justice, human dignity, privacy, protection cultural diversity, respect for moral, social and religious values all societies [11].

It is also generally known that United Nations' documents emphasize the importance of ethical aspects and formulated the task of developing a deeper understanding ethical, legal and social implications use information and communication technologies. Changes that bring new solutions in the field of information and communication technologies, can do societies are much more open. The main fundamental principles of the global information society are declared the principles of a democratic and tolerant society.

As we know UNESCO sees its main tasks in the field info-ethics first of all in the following:

- Observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in cyberspace;
- An increase in the amount of information is in the public domain;
- Providing diversity content in information networks;
- Assistance greater accessibility information and funds communications.

Cyberspace reflects the relation forces taking place in real life; the desire to embody in it old values - material and spiritual. What new has it brought? Most likely, exacerbation of old problems due to large power of technology and its new, specific professional, their own ethos. The first is obvious and before worries about everything.

IV. RESULTS

Above all, the main fundamental ethical principles preserve economic interest i.e. the focus is on modern economic property values. Ethical issues such as copyright and copying information on electronic and digital media, intertwined with legal laws governing property relations, economic relationship. For example changing market in the recording industry

during has a lot to do with the development of information and communication technologies. The next round of digital and information technology development had significantly influenced on the company, earnings which associated with selling digital copies works. Of course, personal protection is also a priority, freedom of speech and other values of a democratic society, protection from what counts a crime in morality and law. Info-ethics principles require you to behave not criminal in this area of human activities.

As in life, a person can behave in cyberspace and be good, and poorly. Honesty and trust are ethical categories; remain in contrast from legislative and Economic restrictions. Attempts are being made to solve the problems legally. At the same time, the intensity of the efforts and attempts conceived by the inner and internal forces increases.

To solve the problem of theft and digital online scams are created special computer programs, maintaining a high level of security work in networks. Except Moreover, attempts are being made to organize general cooperation, agreements on persecution similar crimes. However, information technology community meets and with serious difficulties. So, there is sufficient reason to believe that the exercise effective control of pornography and suspicious communities through modern information technology is incompatible with the right to privacy as it is now understood. Further development Internet technologies will determine the situation in this area. Or a question about intellectual property: there are supporters and opponents copyright. So, are given arguments that copyright in mostly not protects interests of the authors, but, on the contrary, helps to infringe on them; the only exceptions are isolated cases of writers promoted before receiving millions of royalties, and even the authors of the notorious pop music [12]. In relation to the intellectual property plays a decisive role persuasion man, his own solution.

V. CONCLUSION

As it is seen from our scientific research, we would like to answer an important question: all ethical and legal problems will be solved by technology, or some will remain for the state, for a person, society? Electronic support mechanisms information systems security used in the electronic world and especially on the Internet are beginning to play a role similar to roles played in an organized society the laws. Their main purpose is to ensure the protection of the owners' electronic property, including multimedia publications, audio files, images and video and text documents.

From the above-mentioned we may conclude that in real there are many ethical norms associated with the concept of property in the world. A similar situation takes place in the electronic world, where they take their form. Are used various types of electronic protection means. Protection mechanisms are based on cryptography, digital signature and digital watermark sign. They provide information security. Electronic ethics rules vary depending on by the nature of the mechanism used protection. Role this ethics very large since in significant degree defines behavior person in the electronic world. But one cannot fail to notice that self-regulation mechanisms appear in the network community. A prime example is spam problem. Against him the only one persistent rejection of spam by the online community, which was due to need self-preservation network community? Is the inability to control information technology system sufficient basis, so that they afraid? Network done people. It's hard to assume that evil will outweigh good. Humanity has a long history of exploiting technological change. At this it had and pluses, and minuses: overcoming ailments and ecological damage. Such is you can suppose, there will be an outcome contemporary and current digital information revolution.

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