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## **Open Standards - Open Source**

**The Business, Legal, and Technical Challenges Ahead**

**June 24-25, 2003, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

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# Social and Ethical Issues of Open Source

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In 1990 Goodpaster left Harvard to accept the David and Barbara Koch Endowed Chair in Business Ethics at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. At St. Thomas, he teaches in undergraduate, MBA and executive educational programs.



# Social and Ethical Issues of Open Source

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- *Ethical Issues Related to Open Source*
  - Speaking of “Open Sources”
    - ***Ethics, the Moral Point of View, and the Golden Rule***
  - Four “Logics” of Moral Reasoning
    - ***Interest-based – costs and benefits***
    - ***Rights-based – claims anchored in nature, not convention***
    - ***Duty-based – obligations anchored in fidelity to relationships***
    - ***Virtue-based – habits or character traits that guide choices***

# Social and Ethical Issues of Open Source

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<i>APPLIED TO PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS</i>	<b><i>Open Source</i></b>	<b><i>Proprietary</i></b>
Interest-based	Common good	Private interests and public interests
Rights-based	Acknowledgement rights	Property rights
Duty-based	Obligations to share and to cite	Fiduciary and stakeholder obligations
Virtue-based	Generosity, honesty, collaboration	Accountability, fairness; prudence

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## □ *Ethical Issues Related to Open Source: A Puzzle About Moral Motivation*

- *It is an important question in moral thought, how much impartiality we should try for. You are a particular person, but you are also able to recognize that you're just one person among many others, and no more important than they are, when looked at from the outside. How much should that point of view influence you? You do matter somewhat from outside -- otherwise you wouldn't think other people had any reason to care about what they did to you. But you don't matter as much from the outside as you matter to yourself, from the inside -- since from the outside you don't matter any more than anybody else.*

Thomas Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?* (Oxford, 1987).

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