

R:BASE Developers' Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

SUMMARY of PRINCIPLES

These six major principles govern the interactions between the R:BASE Developer and six different types of entities.

1. **Public Interest** -- R:BASE developers shall act consistently with the public interest.
2. **Client and Employer** -- R:BASE developers shall act in a manner that is in the best interests of their client and employer, consistent with the public interest.
3. **Developed Products** -- R:BASE developers shall ensure that their products and related modifications meet the highest professional standards possible.
4. **R:BASE Technologies (RBTI)** -- R:BASE developers shall advance the integrity and reputation of the products of RBTI, consistent with the public interest.
5. **Colleagues** -- R:BASE developers shall be fair to and supportive of other R:BASE developers, described in this Code as their colleagues.
6. **Self** -- R:BASE developers shall participate in continuous learning regarding the products they use and support, and shall promote an ethical approach in business.

Principle 1: Public Interest

R:BASE developers shall, as appropriate:

- 1.01. Accept full responsibility for their own work.
- 1.02. Disclose to appropriate persons or authorities any actual or potential danger to the user, the public, or the environment, that they reasonably believe to be associated with software or related documents.
- 1.03. Be fair and avoid deception in all statements, particularly public ones, concerning software or related documents, methods, and tools.

Principle 2: Client and Employer

R:BASE developers shall, as appropriate:

- 2.01. Provide service in their areas of competence, being honest and forthright about any limitations of their experience and education.
- 2.02. Not knowingly use software that is obtained or retained either illegally or unethically.
- 2.03. Confirm that software in use at a client or employer site is properly licensed, and assist clients or employers to acquire complete and legal licenses.
- 2.04. Use the property of a client or employer only in ways properly authorized, and with the client's or employer's knowledge and consent.
- 2.05. Keep private any confidential information gained in their professional work, where such confidentiality is consistent with the public interest and consistent with the law.
- 2.06. Promote no interest adverse to their employer or client, unless a higher ethical concern is being compromised; in that case, inform the employer or client or another appropriate authority of the ethical concern.

Principle 3: Developed Products

R:BASE developers shall, as appropriate:

- 3.01. Strive for high quality, acceptable cost, and a reasonable schedule, ensuring significant tradeoffs are clear to and accepted by the employer and the client.
- 3.02. Ensure proper and achievable goals and objectives for any project on which they work or propose.
- 3.03. Ensure that they are qualified for any project on which they work or propose to work, by an appropriate combination of education, training, and experience.
- 3.04. Ensure adequate testing, debugging, documentation, and review of software and related documents on which they work.

Principle 4: RBTI

R:BASE developers shall, as appropriate:

- 4.01. Contribute to the maintenance of a developers' community favorable to acting ethically.
- 4.02. Promote public knowledge of RBTI products.
- 4.03. Extend others' knowledge of the products of RBTI by appropriate participation in professional organizations, meetings, and publications.
- 4.04. Not promote their own interest at the expense of the community, client, or employer.
- 4.05. Obey all laws governing their work, unless, in exceptional circumstances, such compliance is inconsistent with the public interest.
- 4.06. Be accurate in stating the characteristics of the RBTI software products with which they work, avoiding false claims, or any claims that might reasonably be supposed to be speculative, vacuous, deceptive, misleading, or doubtful.
- 4.07. Take responsibility for detecting and reporting errors in RBTI products through the systems and channels established by RBTI to manage the development process.
- 4.08. Bring any dispute or grievance with RBTI privately and directly to RBTI.
- 4.09. Not air grievances with RBTI or its staff in a public forum.

Principle 5: Colleagues

R:BASE developers shall, as appropriate:

- 5.01. Encourage colleagues to adhere to this Code.
- 5.02. Assist colleagues in professional development.
- 5.03. Credit fully the work of others; refrain from taking undue credit.
- 5.04. Review the work of others in an objective way.
- 5.05. Give a fair hearing to opinions, concerns, or complaints of a colleague.
- 5.06. Not knowingly approach a potential client with an existing relationship with another R:BASE developer, for the purpose of proposing or negotiating work for that client.
- 5.07. If approached by a client with an existing relationship with another R:BASE developer, requesting work or a proposal for work, first communicate fairly with both the colleague and the client about the conflicting interests.
- 5.08. Bring any dispute or grievance with a colleague privately and directly to that colleague.
- 5.09. Not air grievances with a colleague in a public forum.
- 5.10. Not unfairly criticize or intervene in the career of any colleague, nor publicly disparage any colleague's competence.
- 5.11. In situations outside of their own areas of competence, call upon the opinions and assistance of other professionals who have competence in those areas.

Principle 6: Self

R:BASE developers shall continually endeavor to:

- 6.01. Further their knowledge of the RBTI Products they use and support.
- 6.02. Improve their ability to create safe, reliable, and useful quality software at reasonable cost and within a reasonable time.
- 6.03. Not give unfair treatment to anyone because of any irrelevant prejudices.
- 6.04. Not influence others to undertake any action that involves a breach of this Code.
- 6.05. Recognize that personal violations of this Code are inconsistent with being an Authorized R:BASE Developer.

R:BASE Technologies, Inc., reserves the right to modify this Code of Ethics if deemed necessary.

Many of these principles are borrowed and adapted from the excellent Code developed by the IEEE/ACM, "Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice," copyright © 1999, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., and the Association for Computing Machinery, Inc.