

Avoiding Ethical Disasters in the Information Age

The world of Information Technology (IT) is littered with disasters. Recent failures of government IT in the United Kingdom have undermined public trust in government's ability to protect sensitive data and deliver effective services. A track record of disaster confirms that there have been serious flaws in strategic, developmental and operational thinking about IT. There has to be a new way forward! In particular, Information Technology must be *considered in context*, and IT professionals must engage with philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists and others to ensure that new technology is fit-for-purpose and socially acceptable.

Professor Rogerson will address this urgent need by proposing an update in current practice regarding Information Technology development. Instead of focusing upon previous disasters, we should anticipate and address potential social and ethical impacts before they happen. A new approach, grounded in ethics, can provide forewarning and take into account both professional practice and Information Technology products. Electronic voting will be used as an illustrative case.