

Ethics Case Study  
Problem 5  
Computer Scientist: Accepting a Grant on a  
Possibly Unachievable Program

February 19, 2003

A professor of computer science applied for and received a grant for the Strategic Defense Initiative Program to engage in a software assurance research project of a theoretical nature. The goal was to determine the methods by which error-free software might be produced on a large-scale basis. The professor does not believe that SDI is a viable Department of Defense program. She does believe, however, that her work could add measurably to the body of scientific knowledge concerning the development of error-free software. Thus, she accepted the grant money.

**Professor: Accepting a Grant for Reasons She Found Compatible with Her Value Judgements**