

PES UNIVERSITY
INFORMATION SECURITY
ASSIGNMENT APPLE CASE STUDY

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1. If you were in Cook's shoes, would you comply with the court order to help the FBI access the data on the iPhone used in the San Bernardino shooting? Why or why not?

If I were in Cook's shoes, I would not comply with the court order to help the FBI access data on the iPhone. I believe in user's privacy of data, in this digital world there are people who can use this backdoor to get into any user's iPhone and access their data. We cannot think of every case good or bad when taking such a crucial step which not only complicates things now but also an obstacle in the path of developing new softwares prioritizing privacy, encryption of data. Yes, there might arise a case where the act of terrorism is via iPhone hence complicating rules cited by Apple.

2. What are Apple's responsibilities for public safety?

The responsibility of maintaining public safety in the crisis of data privacy is of high priority in this digital era, where every step taken is via electronic device. Apple has very high importance for public safety so that it does not lose any customer support nor the stakeholders believe in the company's mindset of taking the right steps for the people. Apple's CEO Tim Cook rejected every attempt to create a backdoor to its Apple iPhone after implementing end-to-end encryption on its messaging app. These attempts were from top federal and judicial bodies, which shows sincerity in protecting the public's data from them. He also called the order 'software equivalent of cancer'.

3. What are Apple's responsibilities for customer privacy? Does Cook have additional responsibilities to take into account in this situation? If so, what are they?

As mentioned above Apple has a very high priority of protecting its customers' privacy. Yes, Cook had additional responsibilities to take into account, he had to maintain the power struggle between the government attempt to extract the user's data whenever needed and its customers belief that Apple has very good encryption software that does not allow others to view its data. Cook also stressed on the importance of protecting consumer data and stated that 'privacy and security are built into every one of our products and services from their inception.' He also declared 'We believe that your data's yours.' He also pondered on things like 'Does Apple have a moral obligation to help the government learn more about the attacks? Or does it have a moral obligation to protect its customers' privacy? Or how about its shareholders? And which of this should take precedence?'

4. Does your answer to providing access vary with the government agency or national government requesting the data? Why or why not?

No, my answer does not vary with the government agency or national government requesting the data. I have a vision and dream of protecting my customers' privacy at any cost. The rules of a company on privacy of data and security should not be changed on the basis of the government ideals of ruling the country like a monarch. If the government asked me to remove certain apps from the server, I would pull out of the country and let the people handle the case as every human has its right of freedom.

5. Is there a way for Cook to resolve the apparent tension among these various responsibilities?

There are obstacles at every step of the path we take, this is the same for Tim Cook. He has to take a step that is causing a moral complication in his ideals and responsibility of an oath to obey promised country. There is no one solution for the same conflict. Yes he could resolve the tension that allows for single access to the device the FBI or any government agency has asked for and thus not necessary to create a master key which could be compromised. He could also not act as man in the middle and let the agency ask the user itself for the data they require.