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Initial Post

by <u>Md Aminur Rahman</u> - Saturday, 26 October 2024, 7:02 PM

In a case study from the ACM, computing professionals failed to protect user data adequately, leading to a privacy breach. According to the ACM Code of Ethics, specifically sections 1.1 and 1.6, computing professionals must prioritize public good and ensure user privacy (ACM, 2018). In this scenario, professionals neglected these responsibilities, causing unintended exposure of sensitive data. The British Computer Society (BCS) Code of Conduct shares similar tenets, with its "Public Interest" principle requiring data protection to safeguard public privacy and security (BCS, 2022).

From a legal perspective, data breaches like this are often subject to penalties under regulations such as the GDPR, which enforces data security through significant fines (Voigt & Bussche, 2017). Socially, such breaches can erode public trust, leading users to be more cautious about digital services. Ethical breaches indicate deeper oversight issues in organizations, as noted in ethics literature (Floridi, 2016).

Comparing ACM and BCS codes underscores the importance of privacy and data protection for responsible computing. This case highlights the consequences of ethical lapses—legally and reputationally—and the necessity for professionals to align with ethical standards to uphold trust in the field.

References

ACM. (2018). ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Retrieved from https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics

BCS. (2022). BCS Code of Conduct. Retrieved from https://www.bcs.org/membership/become-a-member/professional-standards/code-of-conduct/

Floridi, L. (2016). The Ethics of Information. Oxford University Press.

Voigt, P., & Bussche, A. von dem. (2017). The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): A Practical Guide. Springer.

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Re: Initial Post

by <u>Aleksandr Vygodchikov</u> - Sunday, 27 October 2024, 7:07 PM

Hello Aminur, your analysis effectively highlights the ethical lapses in the ACM case study and the importance of adhering to ACM and BCS codes of ethics. You clearly identify how the privacy breach violated key principles, such as public good and privacy, aligning your points with the specific sections of the codes. Including the GDPR as a legal framework adds depth, emphasizing the real-world consequences of such breaches. The references to ethics literature strengthen your argument, showing broader implications for organizational oversight.

To improve, you could elaborate more on how the BCS Code of Conduct specifically relates to the case. For instance, you could

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discuss which particular clauses within the "Public Interest" principle were breached and how they compare directly with the ACM Code. Additionally, consider expanding on the social impact beyond user trust, such as potential long-term effects on the company's reputation or future data handling practices. This would provide a more comprehensive view of the consequences.

Overall, your post is well-structured and covers the main points effectively. Adding these details would make your argument even more robust.

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Re: Initial Post

by Md Aminur Rahman - Sunday, 3 November 2024, 3:59 PM

Hi Aleksandr,

Thank you for your thoughtful feedback and for highlighting the areas where I can expand my analysis. You make an excellent point about delving deeper into the specific clauses of the BCS Code of Conduct, particularly under the "Public Interest" principle. I agree that discussing how these clauses align with or differ from the ACM Code could add more depth to the analysis.

Additionally, your suggestion to explore the broader social impacts, like the long-term effects on the company's reputation and future data handling practices, is valuable. This would indeed provide a more comprehensive view of the consequences of ethical lapses in data protection. I appreciate your insights, and I'll be sure to incorporate these aspects in future discussions.

Thanks again for your constructive feedback!

Best regards,
Md Aminur Rahman

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