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Lab - Create Your Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

Objectives

Part 1: Research Approaches to Ethical Decision Making

Part 2: Research Code of Ethics

Part 3: Develop Your Own Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

Background / Scenario

When confronted with an ethical dilemma, what do you consider when making a decision?

Suppose you find a new USB 3.0 flash drive in the computer lab, what would you do? A student in your class says they found a site on the internet that has all of the class exams and quizzes with answers, what would you do?

Working in Cybersecurity is not always about stopping cyber attacks. As a Cybersecurity specialist, your organization may entrust you with some of the most sensitive data. As a result, you will be confronted with challenging ethical dilemmas, which may not have an easy or clear answer. For example, when researching a security breach, are the personal devices of employees and their personal content included?

The focus of this lab is to research approaches or perspectives for ethical decision making. Next, you will research code of ethics and finally you will create your own personal code of ethical conduct.

Required Resources

- PC or mobile device with Internet access

Instructions

Part 1: Research Approaches to Ethical Decision Making

There are several approaches or perspectives on Ethical Decision Making, including Utilitarian ethics, the Rights approach and the Common Good approach. Other ethical decision models include the Fairness or Justice approach as well as the Virtue approach.

In this part, you will research each ethical decision model or framework and then formulate the underlying principle from that approach.

Use an internet browser to research approaches to ethical decision making.

Step 1: Research Utilitarian ethics

Define the underlying principle for the Utilitarian Ethics approach.

- The underlying principle of Utilitarian Ethics is to maximize the greatest good for the most people. Decisions are made based on the outcome that provides the most benefit and least harm to the majority.

Step 2: Research the Rights approach to ethical decision making.

Define the underlying principle for the Rights approach to ethical decision making.

- The Rights approach focuses on respecting and protecting the fundamental rights of individuals. It emphasizes the importance of treating people with respect and ensuring that their rights are not violated.

Step 3: Research the Common Good approach to ethical decision making.

Define the underlying principle for the Common Good approach to ethical decision making.

- The Common Good approach emphasizes the welfare of the entire community. It advocates that individuals should act in ways that promote shared values and goals that benefit society as a whole.

Step 4: Research the Fairness or Justice approach to ethical decision making.

Question:

Define the underlying principle for the Fairness or Justice approach to ethical decision making.

- The Fairness or Justice approach focuses on ensuring that decisions are fair and impartial. It aims to create equal treatment for all individuals, avoiding favoritism or discrimination in outcomes.

Part 2: Research Code of Ethics

Most organizations develop their own code of ethics. Developed by management, this document is based on values and principles to promote the company business with honesty and integrity.

In this part, you will research computer code of ethics and cybersecurity code of ethics.

Use an internet browser to research code of ethics.

Based on your research, create a list of at least ten items. The list should be sequential from most important to least important.

1. Information on computers must be treated as confidential as written or spoken words.
2. Respect the privacy and data of others.
3. Creating and distributing malware is illegal and unethical.
4. Do not obstruct others' access to public information.
5. Do not overwhelm systems with spam or unnecessary data.
6. Sending inappropriate messages via email or chat is unacceptable.
7. Do no harm to others through the use of technology.
8. Follow legal regulations and standards.
9. Be reliable and trustworthy in your work.
10. Maintain confidentiality and safeguard sensitive information.

Part 3: Develop Your Own Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

A code of conduct provides guidelines for acceptable as well as unacceptable specific behaviors.

Based on your research, develop a list of your own personal code of ethical conduct.

Create a code of ethics list of at least ten items. The list should be sequential from most important to least important.

1. Do not use technology to harm others.
2. Do not interfere with others' work or digital processes.
3. Do not access or tamper with others' private files without permission.
4. Do not use computers or technology to steal.
5. Do not spread false information or deceive others through technology.
6. Do not use software or intellectual property that is not legally acquired.
7. Do not use others' computing resources without proper authorization.
8. Respect intellectual property and the work of others.
9. Consider the social impact of the programs or systems you design.
10. Use technology in a way that promotes respect and consideration for others.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there a Cyber Security incident you remember where the company acted ethically or the company acted un-ethically? Explain.

- A notable unethical cybersecurity incident is the Equifax data breach. The company failed to patch a known vulnerability, leading to the exposure of personal information of over 147 million people.

Additionally, the delay in notifying the public about the breach was considered unethical.

2. What is a weakness or drawback to Utilitarian Ethics?
   - A key weakness of Utilitarian Ethics is that it can sometimes disregard individual rights. In focusing on the greatest good for the majority, the needs or rights of individuals may be overlooked or compromised.
3. Based on your list of code of ethics, which is the most challenging item in your list to implement?
   - One of the most challenging items to implement is notifying the public of a security incident. This decision may be outside the control of the cybersecurity specialist and depends on the company's policies, which may not always align with ethical considerations.