KEAMANAN SISTEM INFORMASI

Lab – Create Your Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

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Lab - Create Your 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.

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 the Utilitarian Ethics approach is the idea that actions are morally right if they maximize the greatest good or happiness for the greatest number of people. This ethical theory emphasizes the consequences of actions, where the best decision is the one that results in the most beneficial outcome for the majority, minimizing harm and maximizing overall well-being.

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

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

> The underlying principle of the **Rights Approach** to ethical decision-making emphasizes the importance of respecting and upholding the fundamental rights of individuals. It asserts that every person has inherent rights—such as the right to life, freedom, privacy, and equality—that must be protected. Ethical decisions should be guided by the need to respect these rights, both for ourselves and for others. The approach encourages individuals to consider how their actions impact the rights of others and to ensure that those rights are not violated in pursuit of personal or collective goals.

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 underlying principle of the Fairness or Justice approach to ethical decision making is centered around ensuring that decisions are made impartially and equitably. This approach seeks to provide fair treatment for all individuals, ensuring that the outcome is free from bias, favoritism, or discrimination. It emphasizes that everyone should be treated equally unless there is a justified reason for differential treatment, and any disparities in outcomes should be based on legitimate, ethically sound criteria. The goal is to promote justice by creating outcomes that respect the rights and dignity of all parties involved.

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. Protect Privacy: Safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of user data at all times, and prevent unauthorized access or disclosure.
2. Do No Harm: Use technology responsibly to avoid causing harm to individuals, businesses, or society.
3. Be Honest and Trustworthy: Maintain transparency and honesty in all actions, including reporting security vulnerabilities and breaches.
4. Comply with Legal Standards: Follow all applicable laws and regulations, including data protection laws like GDPR.
5. Respect Intellectual Property: Avoid the use of unlicensed software or violating copyright laws.
6. Avoid Conflicts of Interest: Ensure that personal interests do not conflict with professional duties.
7. Ensure Fair Access: Do not restrict others from accessing information they are legally entitled to.
8. Prevent Malicious Activities: Do not engage in the creation, spread, or use of malware or other malicious software.
9. Promote Cybersecurity: Stay vigilant in protecting systems from security threats, such as unauthorized intrusions or data theft.
10. Act Responsibly in Cybersecurity Research: Engage in ethical hacking or cybersecurity testing with proper authorization and intent to improve system security, not to exploit it

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 No Harm: Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people, whether through malicious software, cyberbullying, or any other form of digital aggression.
2. Respect Others' Work: Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work, ensuring that your actions do not disrupt or degrade the work and systems of others.
3. Respect Privacy: Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's computer files or invade their privacy without explicit consent, maintaining integrity and confidentiality.
4. Do Not Steal: Thou shalt not use a computer to steal, whether it be financial assets, personal information, or intellectual property.
5. Be Honest: Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness by spreading misinformation, fabricating data, or manipulating facts for deception.
6. Honor Intellectual Property: Thou shalt not copy or use proprietary software or digital content for which thou hast not paid or obtained permission, respecting the labor and rights of creators.
7. Respect Resources: Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources, networks, or tools without proper authorization or appropriate compensation, ensuring fair usage.
8. Acknowledge Original Work: Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output by plagiarizing or claiming credit for work that is not thine own, giving proper attribution to original creators.
9. Consider Social Impact: Thou shalt think deeply about the social and ethical consequences of the programs or systems thou art designing or writing, ensuring they promote fairness and social good.
10. Promote Respect and Equity: Thou shalt always use computers in ways that promote respect, consideration, and equality for all, ensuring technology empowers and uplifts society rather than marginalizing or harming individuals.

Reflection Questions

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

The Equifax data breach serves as a stark reminder of the ethical obligations companies have when it comes to protecting sensitive consumer information. The actions taken (or not taken) by Equifax in this incident raised serious questions about their commitment to ethical practices and customer trust.

2. What is a weakness or drawback to Utilitarian Ethics?

A notable weakness of Utilitarian Ethics is the potential for **justifying harmful actions** if they lead to a greater overall good. This principle, often summarized as "the ends justify the means," can lead to morally questionable decisions. Here are a few specific drawbacks:

1. Neglect of Individual Rights: Utilitarianism focuses on the greatest good for the greatest number, which can result in the violation of individual rights or the suffering of minorities if it benefits the majority.
2. Difficulties in Measuring Utility**: It can be challenging to quantify and compare the happiness or well-being of different individuals, making it difficult to determine what actions would produce the best outcomes.
3. Long-term vs. Short-term Consequences: Utilitarianism may prioritize short-term benefits without adequately considering long-term consequences, which can lead to unsustainable or harmful practices.
4. Moral Inconsistency: Different people might have varying opinions on what constitutes "the good," leading to inconsistencies in moral judgments and the potential for subjective interpretations.
5. Emotional Disconnect: By focusing solely on outcomes rather than intentions, utilitarianism can seem cold or detached, disregarding the moral significance of personal relationships and emotional factors.

These drawbacks highlight the complexities involved in ethical decision-making and the importance of considering multiple ethical frameworks.

3. Based on your list of code of ethics, which is the most challenging item in your list to implement?

The most challenging item in a code of ethics often varies depending on the specific context and values of an organization, but one common item that can be particularly challenging to implement is:
Integrity and Honesty
Reasons for Challenge:

1. Complex Situations: In practice, situations often arise where the truth is complicated, and maintaining integrity may conflict with personal or organizational interests.
2. Pressure and Incentives: Employees may face pressure to meet targets or deadlines, which can lead to compromised honesty, especially in high-stakes environments.
3. Cultural Differences: In global organizations, varying cultural norms around honesty and communication can lead to misunderstandings or challenges in adhering to this principle.
4. Fear of Repercussions: Individuals may be hesitant to speak up about unethical behavior or mistakes due to fear of backlash or negative consequences.
5. Balancing Transparency: Striking the right balance between transparency and confidentiality can be difficult, especially when sensitive information is involved.

To successfully implement integrity and honesty, organizations often need to create a supportive environment that encourages open communication, provides training, and establishes clear policies that outline expected behaviors.