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

Question:

Define the underlying principle for the Utilitarian Ethics approach.

Answer:
The underlying principle of Utilitarian Ethics is to maximize the overall well-being or happiness for the greatest number of people.

Answers will vary but should include on maximizing the greatest good for the most people.

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

Question:

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

Answer:
The Rights approach emphasizes respecting and protecting the fundamental rights of individuals. It focuses on preserving human dignity, autonomy, and freedom of choice, while also acknowledging the importance of respecting others' rights in our actions and decisions.

Answers will vary but should include the fundamental rights of the individual and how we live our lives, as well as respecting others and how they live their lives.

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

Question:

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

Answer:
The Common Good approach prioritizes the welfare of the community as a whole. It emphasizes shared values, goals, and interests that benefit all members of society, encouraging individuals to consider how their actions impact the broader community rather than just themselves.

Answers will vary but should include the focus of community. Individuals should pursue the values and goals shared by other members of the community.

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.

Answer:
The Fairness or Justice approach focuses on ensuring equitable treatment and outcomes for all individuals. It emphasizes impartiality, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity, striving to create a system where benefits and burdens are distributed fairly across society.

Answers will vary but should include the fairness of the outcome. Is the outcome equal for everyone? The outcome should not impose favoritism nor discrimination.

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.

Question:

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

Answer:
1. Protect user privacy and data confidentiality at all times
2. Never use technology to harm others or their property
3. Respect intellectual property rights and copyright laws
4. Maintain the integrity and security of computer systems
5. Be honest and transparent in all technological interactions
6. Use resources efficiently and avoid wasteful practices
7. Continuously educate yourself on evolving ethical challenges in technology
8. Promote equal access to technology and digital resources
9. Collaborate openly with peers to improve the field of computing
10. Consider the long-term societal impacts of technological decisions

Answers will vary, but may include some of the items below:

1. **Information stored on the computer should be treated as seriously as written or spoken words.**
2. **Respect the privacy of others.**
3. **Creation and usage of malware is illegal and must not be practiced.**
4. **Should not prevent others from accessing public information.**
5. **Overwhelming other's system with unwanted information is unethical.**
6. **Sending inappropriate messages through email or chat is forbidden.**

7. **Do no harm with a computer**
8. **Comply with legal standards**
9. **Be trustworthy**
10. **Maintain confidentiality**

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.

Question:

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

Answer:

1. Always act with integrity and honesty in all personal and professional interactions
2. Respect the privacy and personal information of others
3. Continuously seek knowledge and self-improvement
4. Treat all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their background
5. Take responsibility for your actions and their consequences
6. Strive to make decisions that benefit the greater good
7. Protect and preserve the environment and natural resources
8. Uphold the principles of fairness and justice in all situations
9. Encourage and support the growth and development of others
10. Maintain a balance between personal and professional life

Answers will vary but may include the ten commandments below.

1. **Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people.**
2. **Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.**
3. **Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's computer files.**
4. **Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.**
5. **Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.**
6. **Thou shalt not copy or use proprietary software for which you have not paid (without permission).**
7. **Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization or proper compensation.**
8. **Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output.**
9. **Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you are writing or the system you are designing.**
10. **Thou shalt always use a computer in ways that ensure consideration and respect for other humans**

Reflection Questions

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

Answer:
The 2024 cyber attack on Indonesia's National Data Center (PDN) presents an interesting case of ethical considerations in cybersecurity.
Ethical actions:

1. The government was transparent about the attack and their inability to recover ransomware-affected data.
2. They mandated multi-layered data backups for all government institutions to prevent future incidents.

Potentially unethical aspects:

1. Lack of adequate backup measures for critical systems prior to the attack.
2. Delayed response in implementing new security measures.
3. Failure to protect citizens' data, resulting in unrecoverable loss.

This incident underscores the ethical imperative for governments to proactively secure sensitive data and respond swiftly to breaches. While the subsequent security improvements are positive, the initial vulnerabilities raise questions about responsible data management.

Answers will vary but may include Equifax data breach.

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

Answer:
Utilitarian Ethics can disregard individual rights for the sake of the majority's benefit. This can lead to situations where minorities or certain individuals are unfairly disadvantaged for the "greater good." This approach may also ignore other important moral principles such as justice, honesty, or individual dignity if the outcome is deemed beneficial to more people.

Answers will vary but may include the lack of fundamental individual rights.

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

Answer:
"Consider the long-term societal impacts of the technological decisions you make."
This is particularly challenging because:

1. It's difficult to predict all long-term consequences of technological innovations.
2. There's often pressure to develop and launch new technologies quickly.
3. Social impacts can be highly complex and involve many interrelated factors.
4. Sometimes there's a conflict between short-term benefits and long-term risks.

Answers will vary but may include those items that are out of the control of the cybersecurity specialist. Example when to notify the public of a security incident.