

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.

- Utilitarian Ethics is based on the idea that actions should be evaluated based on their consequences, with the goal of achieving the greatest overall benefit. The principle focuses on actions that enhance overall happiness and reduce suffering for the maximum number of people.

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

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

- The Rights approach prioritizes respecting and protecting individuals' fundamental rights. It emphasizes that decisions should uphold and honor personal freedoms and entitlements, ensuring that individual dignity and autonomy are maintained.

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.

- The Common Good approach advocates for actions that contribute positively to the community as a whole. It suggests that individuals should work towards goals and values that benefit everyone in the community, fostering a cooperative and supportive environment.

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 is centered on ensuring that decisions and actions are equitable and just. It focuses on achieving outcomes that are free from bias and favoritism, ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and equally.

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.

1. Ensure the security and confidentiality of all information.
2. Maintain honesty and integrity in all professional dealings.
3. Avoid using technology in ways that could harm others.
4. Respect and uphold the intellectual property rights of others.
5. Refrain from creating or distributing harmful software.
6. Do not misuse or exploit technological resources.
7. Adhere to legal and ethical standards at all times.
8. Report any unethical or illegal activities promptly.
9. Promote fairness and impartiality in all professional actions.
10. Safeguard data and system integrity from unauthorized access.

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.

1. **Prevent harm:** Use technology in ways that avoid causing damage or harm to others.
2. **Respect privacy:** Ensure that personal and sensitive information is kept private and secure.
3. **Be truthful:** Always act with honesty and transparency.
4. **Protect confidentiality:** Secure confidential data from unauthorized access or exposure.
5. **Follow the law:** Abide by all legal regulations and industry standards.
6. **Avoid unauthorized use:** Do not access or use systems or data without proper authorization.
7. **Disclose security issues:** Report any discovered vulnerabilities or security issues immediately.
8. **Avoid theft:** Do not steal or misuse intellectual property or digital assets.
9. **Ensure fairness:** Strive to make impartial and equitable decisions.
10. **Be accountable:** Take responsibility for your actions and their consequences.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there a Cyber Security incident you remember where the company acted ethically or the company acted un-ethically? Explain.
 - The **Yahoo data breaches** are an example where the company acted unethically. Yahoo experienced massive data breaches but did not disclose the incidents in a timely manner, which was a breach of ethical standards in handling and communicating security issues.
2. What is a weakness or drawback to Utilitarian Ethics?
 - One significant limitation of Utilitarian Ethics is that it can overlook individual rights and interests in favor of the greater good. This approach might justify actions that negatively impact individuals or minority groups if it benefits the majority, leading to potential ethical conflicts.
3. Based on your list of code of ethics, which is the most challenging item in your list to implement?
 - The most challenging item might be **reporting vulnerabilities**. Often, disclosing security weaknesses can be risky for an organization, potentially leading to reputational damage or other negative consequences, which can make it difficult to act in an ethical manner.

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