

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 a philosophical approach that holds that the morally right action is one that produces the greatest good for the greatest number of people. This principle, often referred to as the **principle of utility**, emphasizes maximizing happiness, pleasure, or well-being while minimizing suffering.

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:

The Rights approach to ethical decision-making is based on the belief that individuals have fundamental rights that should be protected and respected. These rights are inherent to all human beings, regardless of their nationality, race, religion, or other characteristics.

The underlying principle of the Rights approach is to **respect individual autonomy and dignity**. This means that individuals have the right to make their own choices and decisions, as long as they do not harm others. It also implies that individuals should be treated with respect and fairness, and that their rights should not be violated.

In essence, the Rights approach focuses on protecting individual liberties and ensuring that everyone is treated equally and fairly. It is often used in discussions about human rights, justice, and social equality.

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:

The Common Good approach to ethical decision-making is based on the belief that the well-being of the community as a whole is more important than the interests of any individual. It focuses on promoting the shared values, goals, and benefits that unite a community.

The underlying principle of the Common Good approach is to **promote the well-being of the community as a whole**. This means that decisions should be made with the best interests of the community in mind, even if that means sacrificing the interests of some individuals. It also implies that individuals have a responsibility to contribute to the common good and to support the institutions and practices that benefit the community as a whole.

In essence, the Common Good approach focuses on promoting social cohesion, solidarity, and cooperation. It is often used in discussions about public policy, social justice, and the role of government.

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.

The Fairness or Justice approach to ethical decision-making is based on the belief that everyone should be treated fairly and equitably. It focuses on ensuring that decisions are made impartially and without bias, and that everyone has equal opportunities.

The underlying principle of the Fairness or Justice approach is to **promote equality and impartiality**. This means that decisions should be based on objective criteria and should not be influenced by personal biases or prejudices. It also implies that everyone should have equal access to opportunities and resources, and that everyone should be treated fairly, regardless of their background or circumstances.

In essence, the Fairness or Justice approach focuses on promoting a just and equitable society. It is often used in discussions about social justice, human rights, and the role of government.

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.

1. Confidentiality:

- Protecting sensitive data and information from unauthorized access, disclosure, or use.

2. Integrity:

- Acting honestly and ethically in all professional dealings, avoiding conflicts of interest, and maintaining trust.

3. Professionalism:

- Adhering to high standards of conduct and competence in the field of computer science and cybersecurity.

4. Respect for Intellectual Property:

- Recognizing and respecting the rights of others to intellectual property, including copyrights, patents, and trade secrets.

5. Social Responsibility:

- Using technology to benefit society and minimize harm, and considering the ethical implications of technological advancements.

6. Non-Maleficence:

- Avoiding causing harm to others through the use of technology, including preventing the spread of malware and protecting against cyberattacks.

7. Beneficence:

- Actively seeking to do good and promote the well-being of others through the use of technology.

8. Transparency:

- Being open and honest about the use of technology and its potential impact.

9. Accountability:

- Taking responsibility for one's actions and the consequences of one's decisions.

10. Continuous Learning:

- Staying up-to-date on the latest developments in computer science and cybersecurity, and seeking opportunities for professional growth.

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.

1. Honesty and Integrity: I will always act with honesty and integrity in my professional and personal life, striving to be truthful and trustworthy.
2. Respect for Others: I will treat everyone with respect, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. I will avoid discrimination and prejudice.
3. Confidentiality: I will protect the privacy and confidentiality of others, respecting their personal information and avoiding unauthorized disclosure.
4. Professionalism: I will maintain high standards of professionalism in my work, striving for excellence and continuous improvement.

5. **Accountability:** I will take responsibility for my actions and their consequences. I will be accountable to myself and to others.
6. **Ethical Use of Technology:** I will use technology responsibly and ethically, avoiding harmful or malicious activities and respecting the rights of others.
7. **Intellectual Honesty:** I will give credit where credit is due, acknowledging the work of others and avoiding plagiarism or intellectual dishonesty.
8. **Social Responsibility:** I will consider the social and environmental impact of my actions, striving to use technology in a way that benefits society and minimizes harm.
9. **Continuous Learning:** I will seek to expand my knowledge and skills, staying up-to-date on the latest developments in my field and seeking opportunities for professional growth.
10. **Empathy and Compassion:** I will strive to understand the perspectives of others and act with empathy and compassion.

Reflection Questions

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

Unethical Actions:

- **Delayed Disclosure:** Equifax delayed disclosing the breach for several weeks, allowing the attackers to continue accessing and selling the stolen data.
- **Misleading Statements:** The company initially downplayed the severity of the breach and misled consumers about the risks involved.
- **Executive Bonuses:** Equifax executives received bonuses shortly after the breach was publicly disclosed, raising questions about corporate accountability and ethical leadership.

Ethical Considerations:

- **Transparency and Honesty:** A timely and transparent disclosure of the breach would have allowed consumers to take steps to protect themselves.
- **Consumer Welfare:** The company's actions prioritized corporate interests over the well-being of consumers, who suffered significant financial and emotional harm.
- **Corporate Responsibility:** Equifax's failure to take adequate measures to prevent the breach and its subsequent mishandling of the situation demonstrated a lack of corporate responsibility.

Answers will vary but may include Equifax data breach.

2. What is a weakness or drawback to Utilitarian Ethics?
 - **Individual Rights:** Utilitarianism can sometimes overlook the rights of individuals in pursuit of the greater good. For example, it might justify sacrificing the rights of a minority group to benefit the majority.

- **Unforeseen Consequences:** Predicting the long-term consequences of actions can be challenging. Utilitarianism assumes that we can accurately foresee the outcomes of our choices, but this is often difficult or impossible.
- **Measurement of Happiness:** Quantifying happiness or "utility" can be problematic. How do we measure the satisfaction of different individuals or groups? This can lead to subjective judgments and potential biases.
- **Ends Justify the Means:** Utilitarianism can sometimes justify morally questionable means if they lead to a desirable end. This can raise concerns about the integrity of actions and the potential for unintended consequences.

Type your answers here.

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?

- **Complexity of Issues:** Social issues are often complex and multifaceted, making it difficult to determine the most ethical course of action.
- **Balancing Interests:** Balancing the interests of individuals, communities, and the environment can be challenging, especially when there are competing priorities.
- **Unintended Consequences:** Actions intended to promote social good can sometimes have unintended negative consequences.
- **Cultural Differences:** Social norms and values can vary across cultures, making it difficult to apply a universal standard of social responsibility.