

LVX
VERITAS
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Lesson 4: Ethics

ENCP6000 Career Management for
Engineers



LVX
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Speaker Series

Hosted by the MGEN co-op team



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Algo Depth

Machine Learning in Quantitative Research

- What is a ML pipeline?
- What are the tech skills needs?
- How do you break into this industry?

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
4:30 PM
WEST VILLAGE F 020

Recap from Lesson 3

- <https://www.fastcompany.com/40553849/what-to-say-when-coworkers-wont-stop-mispronouncing-your-name>

Lesson 4 Learning Objectives

- **Become familiar with** the key tenants of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Code of Ethics.
- Be able to **explain** ethical expectations in the US workplace.
- **Analyze** and **evaluate** a situation in terms of ethical considerations.
- **Articulate** the importance of ethical behavior in engineering.

What are Ethics?

- A. The basic concepts and fundamental principles of decent human conduct.
- B. Our feeling that something is right or wrong.
- C. Moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior.
- D. Our religious views or beliefs.
- E. The branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong conduct.
- F. Always abiding by the letter of the law.
- G. An exact science of right and wrong.
- H. The rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group, culture, etc.

Scandals

- Wells Fargo (fake accounts)
- Enron (hidden debt)
- Volkswagen (falsified data)
- Theranos
- College Admission Scandals

How do these things happen?

Is one person responsible?

Who was impacted?

Make it happen, allow it to happen, or it happens to you!

Real-World Impacts

- Loss of reputation - public recognition by
 - Neighbors
 - Friends
 - Co-workers
 - Family
- Loss of job and livelihood [Felicity Huffman goes to jail.](#)
- Loss of spouse and family
- Other personal/abuse scandals – all cheating
- Company closing

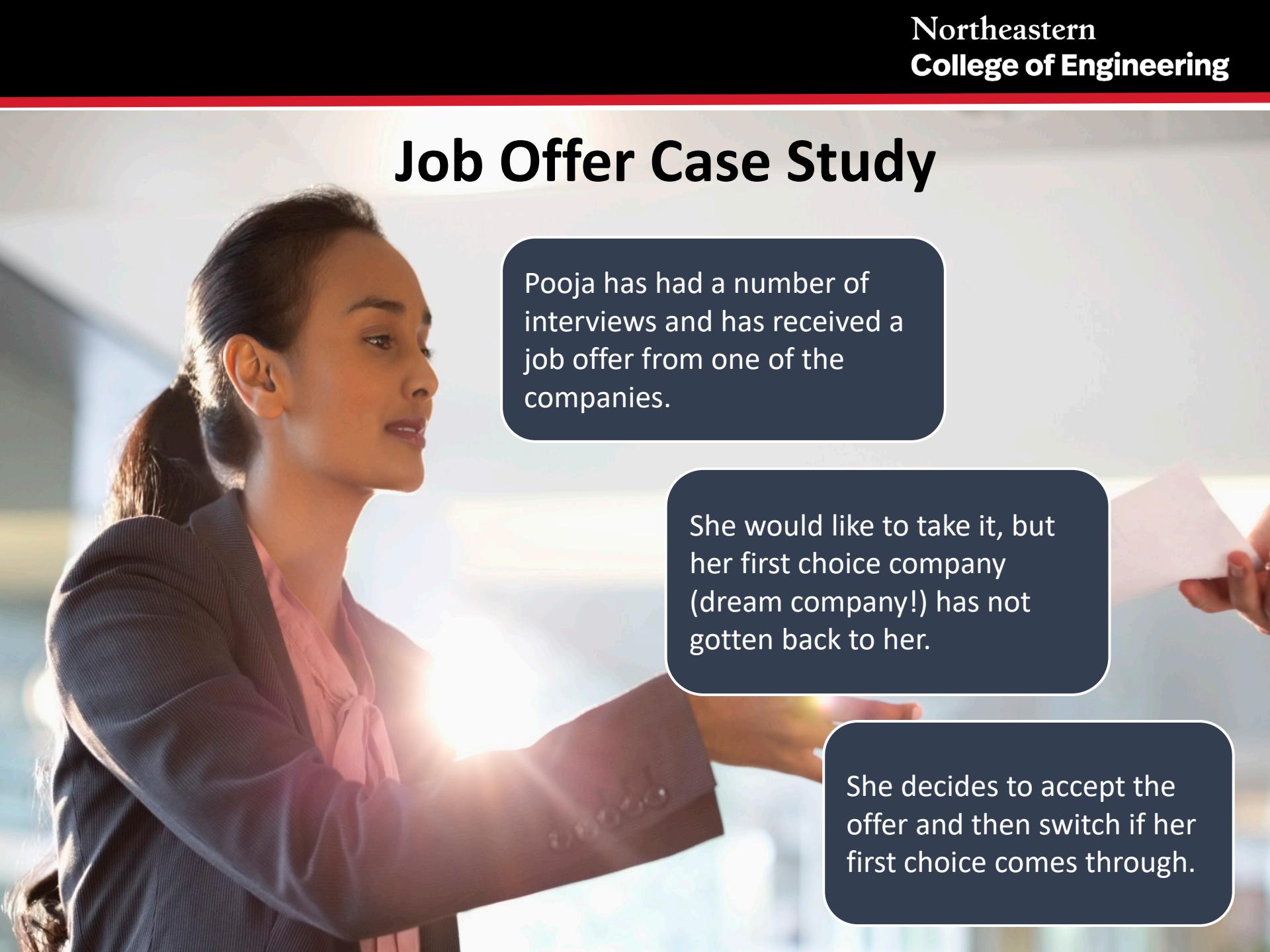
Key Tenets of Engineering Ethics

- Basic principles that engineers commit to follow in their careers
- Engineers are encouraged to make decisions in light of these principles

NSPE Fundamental Canons

1. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation and usefulness of the profession.

Job Offer Case Study



Pooja has had a number of interviews and has received a job offer from one of the companies.

She would like to take it, but her first choice company (dream company!) has not gotten back to her.

She decides to accept the offer and then switch if her first choice comes through.

Is Pooja's plan ethically ok?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Discussion



If she was not a co-op student, is her plan ok?

A. YES

 B. NO



Let's look at it
from a
different
point of view

How would you feel if a company cancelled your job offer?



Case 1: The Company EEO/Sexual Harassment Training Class



Background

- Jing Gupta and Naman Li are co-op students at a Cool Tech Products, Inc. During their first month at the company, the human resources office schedules everyone for an EEO/sexual harassment training session, required by and mandatory for all employees and contractors of the company. The training session will take place in a large auditorium and last three hours.
- The session unfortunately conflicts with another appointment that Jing has. Jing asks his friend Naman to sign them both in on the session attendance sheet. This training, after all, is mostly for “regular employees” of the company, also everyone he has talked to about it says it is “not that important”, held annually, usually dull, and really does not matter; his appointment is very important to him as well.
- The day after the training, Naman tells Jing that the session was in fact very boring, but he signed Jing in. The company believes Jing received the training.

Is there anything wrong with Jing Gupta's actions?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Depends; needs more details and information.

Is there anything wrong with Naman Li's actions?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Depends; need more details and information.

Discussion



Who was impacted by their decision?

What are the ramifications of their decision?

What could they have done?

A complaint is filed against Jing for discrimination!



The company investigates the complaint and finds it is valid.

The company looks at its training record and sees Jing was trained. They fire Jing for not following company policy.

The company also sues Jing to recoup damages they will have to pay the employee.

Is Jing's firing justified?

-  A. True
- B. False

So what happens next?

Jing appeals his firing, saying he did not attend the training and did not know his actions were illegal.

Jing says Naman signed him into the training session, but he did not attend.



The company fires both
Jing **AND** Namam for
falsifying company records

YOU'RE
FIRED!!!



Are Jing's and Naman's firings justified?

-  A. True
- B. False



In Class Activity

You have been put into groups in Blackboard (see below). Meet as a group. Read your case then discuss your case by answering the questions below, developing a rationale as to why you came to that answer. In your discussion you should address the following:

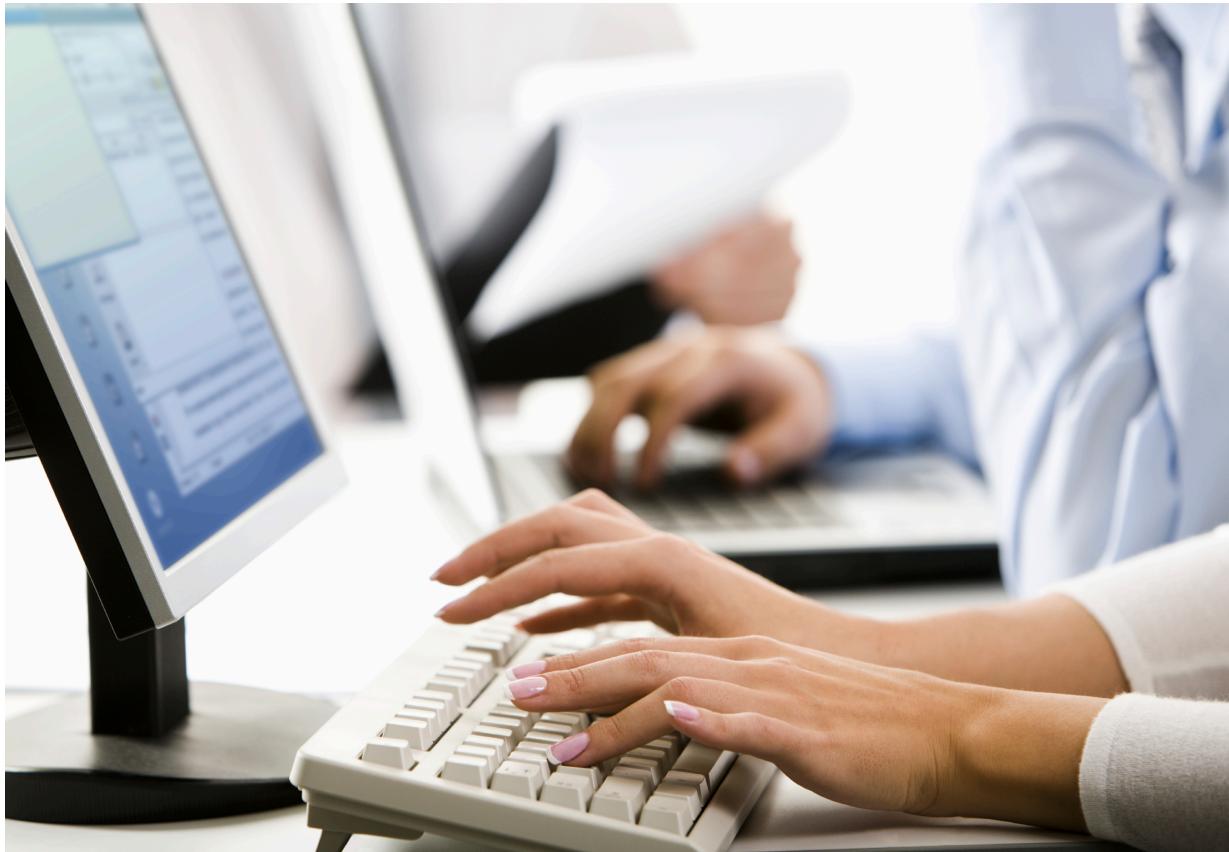
1. Background (Summary of facts)
2. What is the ethical dilemma?
3. What should happen? What are the consequences of action or inaction?
4. What would you do?

Be prepared to report to the class what your group's thoughts are on the case you read.

- Groups 1-5 – Case #2
- Groups 6-10 – Case #3
- Groups 11-14 – Case #4
- Groups 15-18 – Case #5

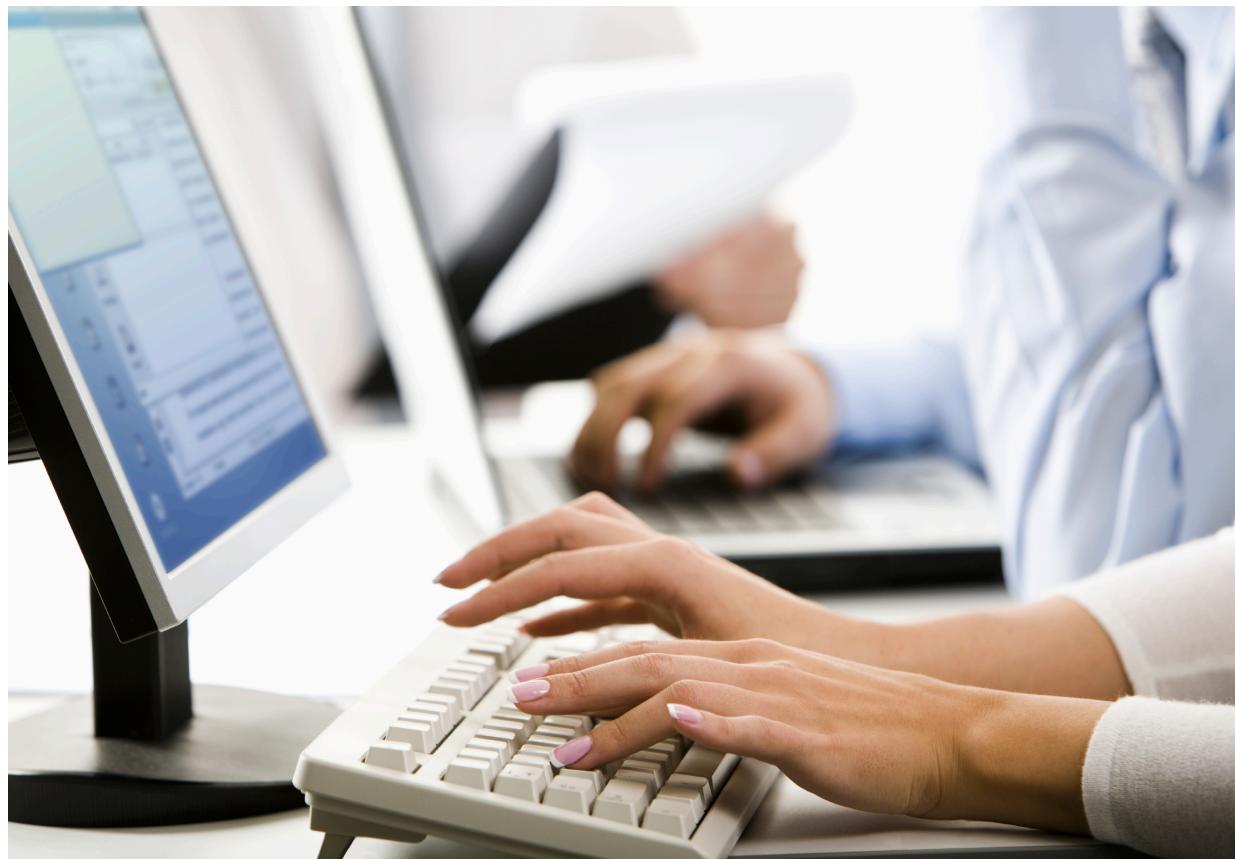
Case 2: Should you accept any job you get?

- Overview / description
- What are the issues?



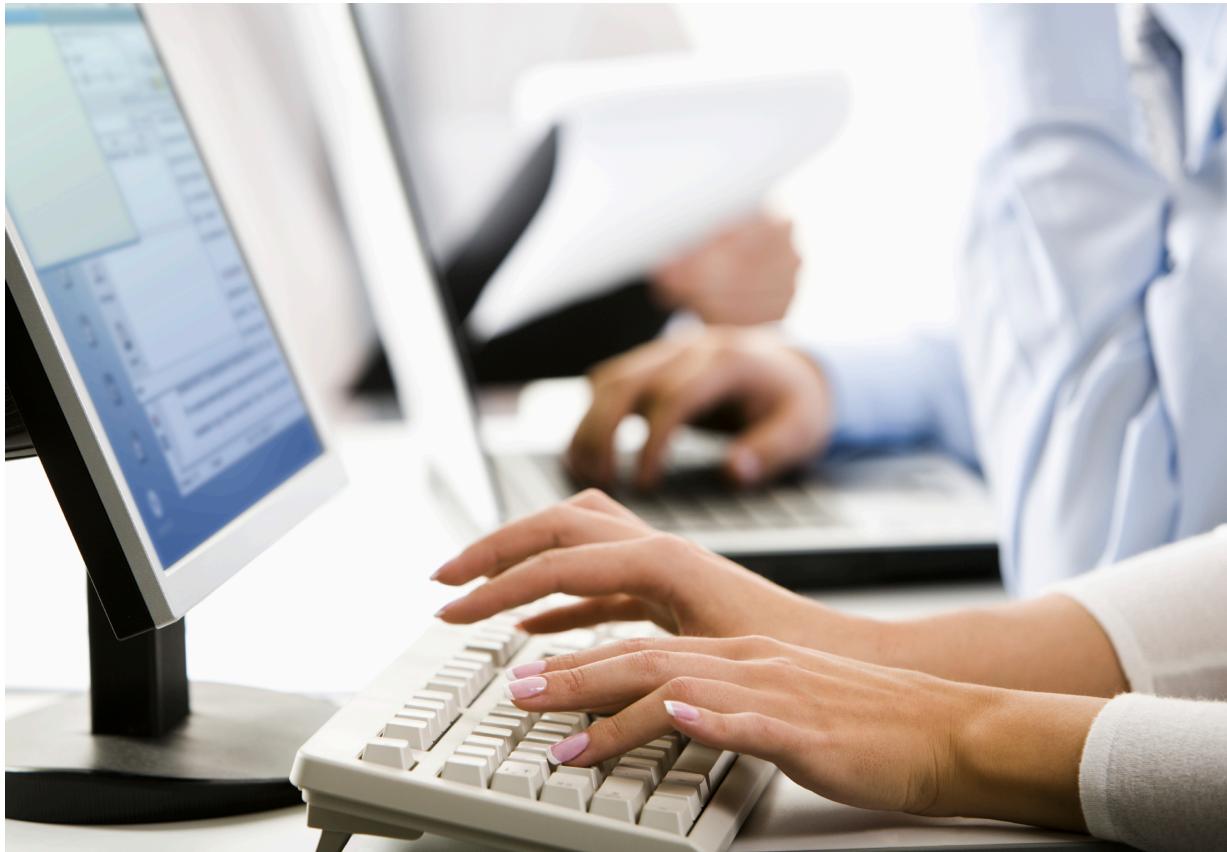
Case 2: Should you accept any job you get?

- Why should Gerald accept or not accept the job?
- How should Gerald answer the question about the use of pesticides?



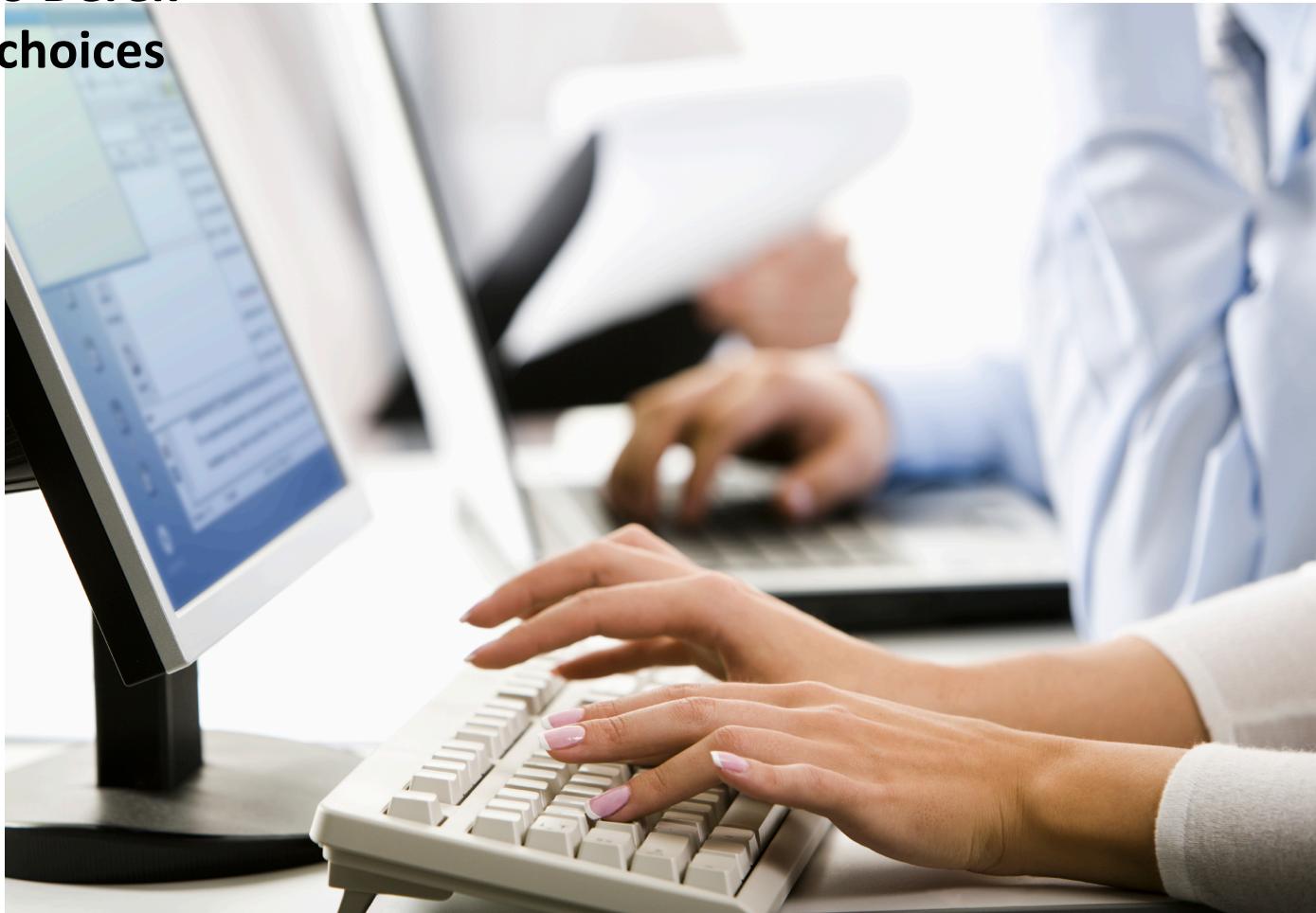
Case 3: Who Can Change Source Code?

- Overview
- Issues



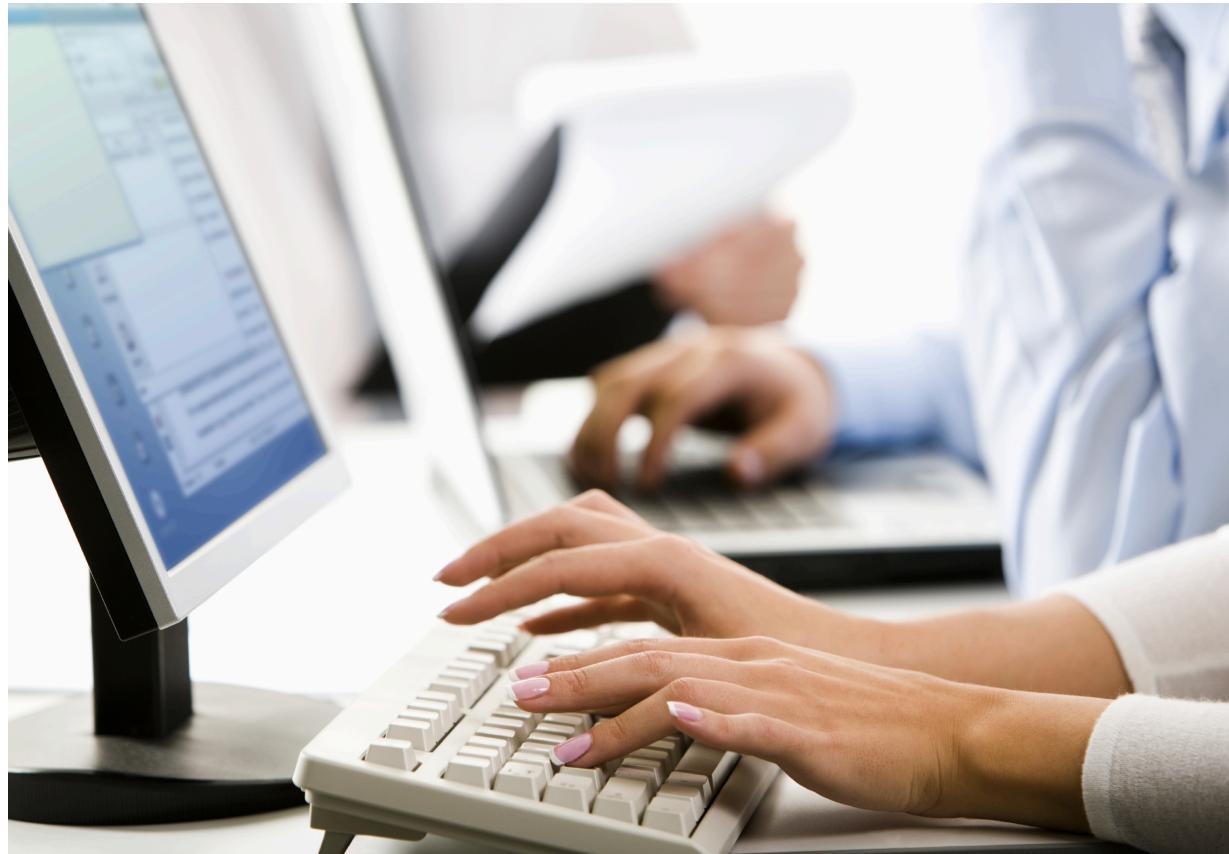
Case 3: Who Can Change Source Code?

- Advice to Derek
- Derek's choices



Case #4: Request to Falsify Data

- Overview
- Issues



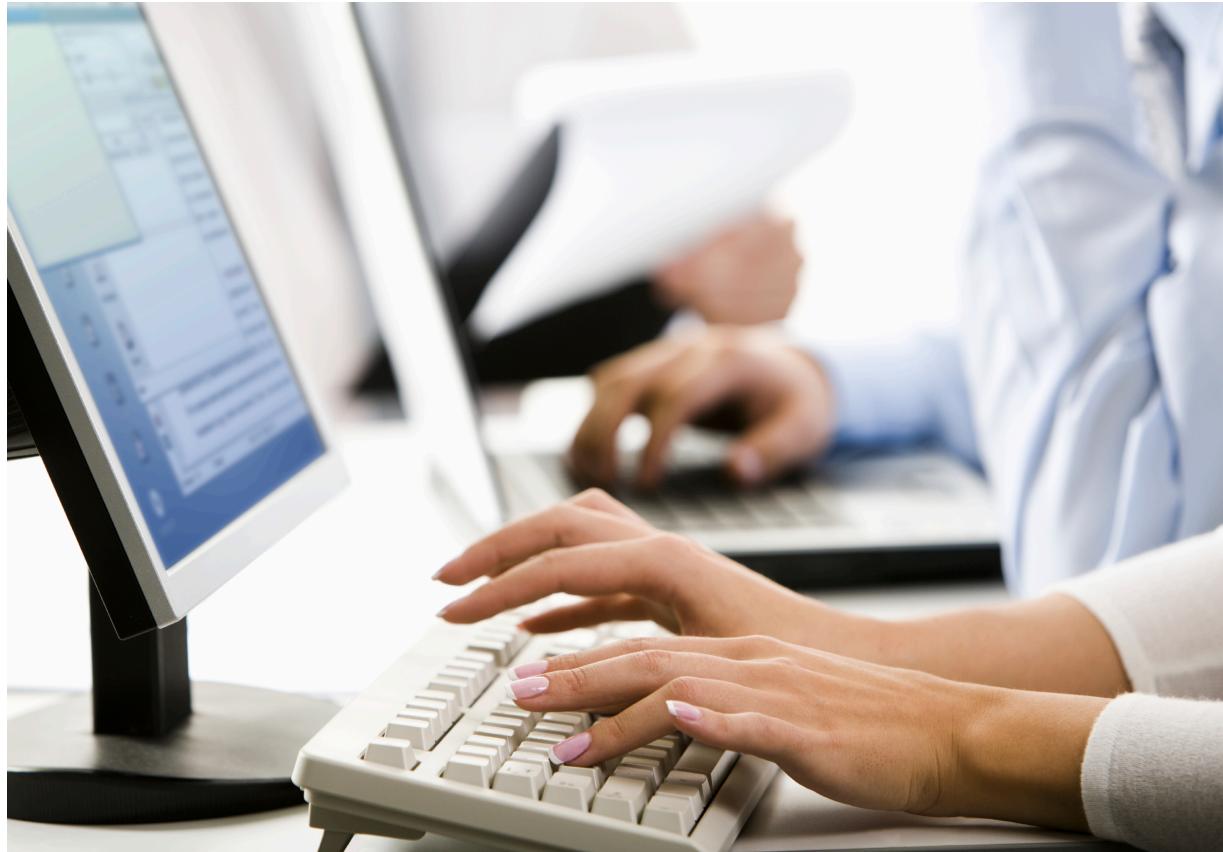
Case #4: Request to Falsify Data

- Discuss Simone's choice
- Discuss Bruce's choice
- Implications and Ramifications



Case #5: Online Interview Cheating

- Overview
- Issues



Case #5: Online Interview Cheating

- Was the company fair in disqualifying the students?
- How was the college impacted?



Case #5: Online Interview Cheating

- Talking about source code, sitting with one another during/before/after can be considered cheating and can disqualify you from an interview process and revoke your ability to go on co-op
- Companies can find out that you have cheated and you can be barred from applying to them forever
- This is a terrible thing for you and for the university's reputation
- And the end result? You lose your co-op opportunity.



Ethics matter!

The background features a world map with a grid overlay. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of six business people: four on the left standing together and one large silhouette of a man on the right.

Ethics and Academics

<http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academic-integrity-policy/>

Questions?



Assignment: Ethics Final Presentation

- Groups 1 & 10 will read Alexa Spying
- Groups 2 & 11 will read Apple & Samsung Slowing Down Phones
- Groups 3 & 12 will read Did Uber Steal Google's Intellectual Property
- Groups 4 & 13 will read Equifax Breach
- Groups 5 & 14 will read Goodbye Google+
- Groups 6 & 15 will read Google Fined
- Groups 7 & 16 will read Subaru
- Groups 8 & 17 will read Uber Hacks
- Group 9 will read Uber Self-Driving Car
- Group 18 will read Effect of Cambridge Analytica

Assignment Reminder

Career Goals Story Line is due next week!!! Check your syllabus for details.

A photograph of a classroom setting. In the foreground, the backs of several students' heads are visible, along with their raised right hands. In the middle ground, more students are seated at desks, also with their hands raised. In the background, a male teacher wearing a dark suit and tie stands at the front of the room, facing the class. The room has white walls and a chalkboard.

Questions?