Systems theory Connor Aoun

The public case I chose where ethical boundaries were crossed was Edward Snowden's release of Top Secret information about National Security Administration security and surveillance practices. Edward Snowden’s release of classified data affected many systems including but not exclusive to the public interest, confidentiality, rights of the people, national security, government databases, public view of government. First off the public interest was the most important system affected by Snowden’s case as it was the reason he came out with the information. The information being released is in favor of the public interest which is why there is an ethical dilemma in this case in the first place. Next is confidentiality, which was affected because the people’s information was wrongfully being used by the government. Snowden showed that the government was acting as if the laws were the same as when the freedom act was active.

Also, the rights of the people was an affected system as the people's rights were infringed upon. Under the constitution people are supposed to be protected with a certain level of security but Snowden revealed the government was breaking this. Next, national security was affected because Snowden released classified data to Russia which could have caused a potential security breach. Government databases were another system affected as Snowden released information that was classified and supposed to never be released like he did. Lastly, the public view of the government was affected by Edward Snowden’s release of data because people were worried the government is potentially doing even more behind the people’s back. This is because surely there is some information even Snowden didn’t know about. Overall software engineering produces many ethical quandaries which typically have two sides to them just like Snowden’s case. Where do you draw the line between what's morally right and what's beneficial to the company.