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CS 4320

Individual Systems Theory

Snowden's reveal interacted with a number of technical systems (NSA Database, Cookies, Cameras, Identification Software), and multiple socio-technical systems (Websites, User Data Collection, OS Diagnostics). The technical systems all work without direct human interaction, whereas the socio-technical systems rely on human interaction in conjunction with the systems running on the hardware.

His release was a public ethical quandry across the board, as all systems were being used to spy on the public. His employer was wronged by Snowden releasing information about their database, identification software, and UI collection. Since the product worked and met high standards there were no product quandrys. Because the database, identification software, and UI collection were explicitly implemented for monitoring people, Snowdens judgement of the ethical situation was pertinent to those fields. Management was at fault for utilizing all of these with malicious intent. Our profession was ethically affected by the systems only software engineers could build. Snowdens Colleagues weren't really wrong in my opinion, they are part of the public, even if some were the cause of the quandry. Ultimately Snowden acted on what he thought was the best choice, holding up his person ethical code, and revealing all of these systems to the public.