

COMP636 Ethics Report

Due: 5pm, Monday 30th January 2023

Submission Method: PDF document submitted via Learn

Worth: 10% of overall mark for COMP636

For the ethical scenario described below write a report that considers the scenario and your course of action.

Your report should:

Identify three stakeholders who are impacted by the situation.

Propose three solutions or approaches to the situation (typically two extreme and one compromise).

For each solution give a best- and worst-case outcome, consider the impact on all stakeholders.

Identify which of the three solutions you would choose and discuss why. Include in your discussion

1. Would you be willing for everyone to be permitted to use the solution you choose?
2. Is this solution balanced? Is one stakeholder impacted more than others?
3. Would there be majority agreement that the solution is the most efficient means to the end?
4. Will it produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people?

Scenario:

Dr Wang works for a publicly funded institution researching computer security. One morning he gets a call from a local company asking for some advice regarding the most appropriate cybersecurity software they should purchase for their organisation.

After listening to the description of what is needed by the organisation, Dr Wang knows of three products that would be suitable, CyberProtect, CyberStar and NetProtect.

“CyberProtect” recently got a five-star rating on a well known technical review website. Former students of Dr Wang developed “CyberProtect” and Dr Wang owns 15% of the company because he contributed to product development.

The product “CyberStar” was listed in the same review article as a “Best Buy” as it is cheaper, but has slightly fewer features. The features the software has would be sufficient for the requirements of the company.

The final product “NetProtect” has a similar cost and features to “CyberProtect” but has received poor reviews for its effectiveness, including in the technical review article that the other products were featured in, above.

Dr Wang is not sure what he should do in this situation and has come to you to discuss the situation. How would you suggest that he navigate the ethics of this request?

(For clarity: Your solutions will focus on the different options Dr Wang has, not the merits of the different products.)

Mark Allocation

Area	% of Marks allocated
Appropriate identification of stakeholders	10%
Three solutions proposed	30%
Discussion of solution selected, including reference to ethical principles and coverage of discussion points	55%
Report presentation including Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	5%