CS 480 Law & Ethics Activity

Sunday, 1 November

Due: Monday, 16 November

Student: Hanyue Wang

**Law Question:**

**1. Find a lawsuit that has been brought against a software development company, and implement the following:**

In 2015, Travelers Casualty and Surely Company of America sued Ignition Studio. Ignition Studio is a professional designer and servicer of websites.

1. **Identify the company being sued, and the complainant**

The company being sued is Ignition Studio(designer and servicer of websites), the complainant is Travelers Casualty and Surely Company of America.

**- specify how the lawsuit is related to an Operating System**

As I learned about this lawsuit, the Travelers sued Ignition because of the lax security on servers allows one or more hackers to steal user information through the site. This shows that the website's operating system has a large security hole, which is also the main cause of the lawsuit

(Ignite built the website).

**- specify how the lawsuit has an identifiable ethics component**

This lawsuit is a glaring example of Ignition's irresponsibility, when I learned about this lawsuit, I found that Ignition caused the leakage of the customer's information due to its negligence. It's not that Ignition can't do well, it's that Ignition doesn't do its duty which cause their employers to lose a lot of money. I suspect this is due to inadequate developer testing and not taking security practices seriously, this also shows that they do not follow the professional ethics.

1. **Summarize the lawsuit in a paragraph. What was the lawsuit about and why did the complainants bring the lawsuit**

The sued company Ignition Studio was hired by Alphine Bank, Alphine Bank want ignition to design and service the bank’s website, but there has been a breach of customer information. As a result of the data breach, the bank has to pay a large amount of money to meet the notification obligation. As Travelers is the insurance company of the bank. Alpine Bank filed an insurance claim, and Travelers paid. Then Travelers accused the ignition of negligently allowing one or more hackers to access the bank's website through lax Internet security measures on the servers where the site was hosted. And Travelers sued the ignition for the $154,711.34 that Travelers paid to Alphine Bank.

1. **Identify the outcome of the lawsuit and how it has affected and/or might affect other software development and society in general**

Few months after Travelers filing the lawsuit, the parties filed a stipulation of dismissal with prejudice, and settled the case with an undisclosed amount.

If such a problem occurs in a software development company, it is likely that there will be a crisis of confidence that threatens the development of the entire company. Also remind software developer that when they develop a software they must not slacken their security requirements. It also makes the whole society pay more attention to the security of software.

**Ethical Question:**

**2. With consideration for either protection or security or both, create a scenario where an Operating System (OS) developer could encounter an ethical situation.**

**a. the scenario should be something that could reasonably happen**

**b. you must specifically identify the ethical situation(s) that could be encountered**

**c. then write a paragraph about how the ethical situation could be mitigated and/or resolved**

Ethical situation:

* An operating system developer who developed an operating system for a communications company planted a computer virus program in the operating system to steal user information and sell it to advertising companies and other companies for profit.

(Exploit security holes to steal user data for personal gain)

Solution:

While software development technology doesn't do evil, people might. In fact, software engineering is also a profession that often deals with life-critical systems, such as the development of programs related to health care and autonomous driving. Even the slightest mistake can have serious consequences, but so far there has been no professional oath for software developers. In order to mitigate/resolve ethical issues, it is necessary not only to constrain personal responsibility but also to regulate safety practices. It is important for people to be more ethical in asking questions not only about software/operating systems, such as security, but also about themselves: what are the moral consequences of doing this? Who's going to get hurt? Who would be superior? To whom will it benefit or harm? We need to introduce these issues into software development as part of the software development cycle. And I think society can add a column called moral trust to each software developer's profile or resume, and establish a clear moral trust standard about which is very trustworthy, which is can not be trust(two examples for Moral trust,it can have many levels of trust). If the developer has ethical problems, mark the column of moral trust. Every software development company can choose its employees not only based on their abilities, but also based on their moral trust, consider whether the company needs to take risks after choosing him. I think this is very useful for those developers with high ability but weak moral sense, It's kind of like a bank's credit system. I also think that there should be specific laws that explicitly enforce ethical restrictions on software developers and punish unethical behavior.

**Reference:**

<https://www.techlawx.com/post/lawsuits-against-software-developers-and-it-specialists>

<https://www.infoq.cn/article/2018/03/software-developers-ethics>

* The case i reseratched is happened in 2015, it is Travelers Casualty /ˈkæʒuəlti/  and Surely Company of America sued /suːd/ Ignition Studio. Ignition Studio is a professional designer and servicer of websites.
* The cause of the lawsuit is Ignition was hired by Alphine  /ˈælpaɪn/ bank for design and service the bank’s website, but there has been a breach  /briːtʃ/ of customer information. As a result of the data breach, the bank has to pay a large amount of money to meet the notification obligation/ˌɑːblɪˈɡeɪʃn/
* Travelers is the insurance company of the bank.So Alpine Bank filed an insurance claim, and Travelers paid. Then Travelers accused the ignition of negligently /ˈneɡlɪdʒəntli/  allowing one or more hackers to access the bank's website through lax Internet security measures on the servers where the site was hosted. And Travelers sued the ignition for a sum of money that Travelers paid to Alphine Bank.
* The result is Few months after Travelers filing the lawsuit, the parties filed a stipulation死忒皮u雷神 /ˌstɪpjuˈleɪʃn/ of dismissal with prejudice /ˈpredʒudɪs/, and settled the case with an undisclosed amount.
* I think software developer when they develop a software or system or anything they must not slacken their security requirements. Especially can't neglect /nɪˈɡlekt/, and More tests should be done before it is put into use