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Ethics Paper

One ethical dilemma that I think that I would face in the workplace is speaking out against unethical things in the workplace. Not speaking up in the workplace is a very broad area of ethics. It can consist of not speaking out against dishonesty with the customer, not being upfront with how the customer's data will be used, having a weak cyber security, etc. A programmer should be honest to the customer and show that they are trustworthy. "A computing professional should be transparent and provide full disclosure of all pertinent system capabilities, limitations, and potential problems to the appropriate parties." (ACM) For example, if the company is abusing user data, then my role as an employee is to report it. And if the company has a weak cyber security that threatens a user's personal data then I should report that also. Because as developers we should make it our top priority to maintain the safety of our customer's data and their privacy. Never should we exploit a customer's data. And the Bible says, "in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12, NIV) In other words, if we, ourselves, do not want our data misused and sold then we should not be selling other people's data. Finally, we should be encouraging to our co-workers with following ethics. "To support colleagues and co-workers in following this code of ethics, to strive to ensure the code is upheld, and to not retaliate against individuals reporting a violation." (IEEE)

To speak out against ethical problems in the workplace can be difficult but it all depends on the circumstances. For instance, if a co-worker is selling a user's data for his own personal gain, then reporting him to the boss would not be too difficult. The boss can crack down on the guy and you will not have to worry about losing your job. However, if it is the company that is selling the user's data then reporting the company would prove more difficult and frankly, scary. Who would you go to in this situation? You cannot go to your boss. And if you did, he would probably get mad and he might end up firing you. So, if a co-worker or two were being unethical, I think I could deal with them, but if it is the boss, I think I would be too scared to even try reporting him.

Many times, companies are delegated with a user's personal information. According to the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, a company should honor confidentiality. And as Christians we should support this belief, because the Bible says, "Whoever conceals an offense promotes love, but whoever gossips about it separates friends." (Proverbs 17:9, CSB) And by keeping customer's personal information confidential we can build trust with the customer.

The IEEE Code of Ethics states that one should credit others when their work is being used. In other words, do not plagiarize. God tells us in the Bible not to steal and plagiarism is stealing. "Do not steal. Do not act deceptively or lie to one another." (Leviticus 19:11, CSB) And plagiarism is more than just stealing. It is also lying. When we steal someone's work, we lie to others by presenting it as our own work. So, when we use someone else's work we need to specify that it is their work and not our own.

Works Cited

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