Snowden’s release of top-secret information raises a few ethical quandaries and effects many systems. He had leaked top secret information about NSA surveillance practices and had to flee the nation. The first question is whether he was wrong for leaking the information? What effects did it have? We are not going to explore any of these questions ethically, merely state that they exist. We will explore some of the systems that are affected by them though.

The fact that he did leak had an effect on the confidence in the government of its citizens, his own employment as well as freedom, and potential changes to what whistleblowing is and how it should be handled. The next question is if the NSA was wrong for the practices in the first place and the leak will lead to changes in clearance, procedures, and storage for information and limits surveillance abilities in the future. A third quandary is weather a citizen viewing the information is in the wrong. It is a potentially illegal activity and could affect how information is transmitted in the media.