

Ethical Dilemma Response: Choosing Integrity Over Expediency in Engineering Leadership

The case in point is when I was hired as a team leader in a team that was implementing software to a large organisation. I faced a significant challenge in identifying the ethical decision that ought to be adopted. The Sprint in which we were working was not going according to its schedule, and senior management was telling us that we had to complete the Sprint on schedule at the cost of the quality measures. This seemed to be an innocent shortcut; one that would have placed a faulty update into the hands of thousands of people by bypassing the entire suite of tests. We had to meet the timeline demands and maintain the product's quality.

I called an ad hoc review meeting of the engineering team and performed risk-impact analysis. I opted to wait 48 hours before releasing the software to perform the necessary validations. I was open with the stakeholders and shared with them how buckling quality would lead to a bad reputation and more expensive patch times in the future. It did not fare too well and was late in being released, but was well received since it was so stable and performed to such capacity that it was hailed by users.

To present a real-life illustration of the same issue, we can refer to the Case of Boeing 737 Max, which was intended to demonstrate cost-effectiveness and meet strict deadlines, resulting in design flaws that led to horrifying failures (Nartey, 2025). The other example of a dilemma in leadership which required a lot of courage and vision has been the issue in which Indra Nooyi the former CEO of PepsiCo settled in the middle of a launch of an advertisement campaign due to culturally surprising offenses (Koilkonda, 2023) I have learned that ethical decision-making is not always comfortable but enables establishment of trust to remember. It also assists in the development of group morale and the elimination of preventable injury. I

would never fail to mention the ethical reasoning skills even in a pressured situation to ensure that the process and people are not compromised.

References

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