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## **Systems Theory**

Depending on your perspective, Edward Snowden committed many ethical violations when he leaked all those classified documents. People who side with the government may feel that what he did was wrong but logical people would see that he put the people over the politicians which is one of the most respectable acts a person can do. He sacrificed his career and freedom for the greater good of the people and he deserves to be praised for it.

He did a great job following the personal data ethical code as he is making sure to let the public know that their data is being collected by the NSA and without him, they would have no idea it was happening. It also benefited his judgement as he felt that it was wrong for the government to spy on people so he made the right call in releasing that information to the public, which hurt himself because he was in deep trouble by the government and had to go on the run. Depending on how you look at it, he may have been in the right or wrong when it comes to the security ethical code. He chose the security of the people and their privacy over the security of the government from potential attacks and again, depending on how you look at it, he may or may not have done the right thing. In my mind, he 100% did the right thing as the people are more important than the government no matter what. He did also violate the confidentiality code of ethics as he exposed his client/employer which negatively impacted his

profession of working for the government and also his management because they got exposed for spying on people. Even though he violated the confidentiality code, he did it to the benefit of the public which makes it okay in my eyes. Snowden followed the data ethics code by making sure that the owners of the data (the people) were aware that it was being used by the government which once again benefited the people and Snowden himself as well as we can presume that he was on the people's side as well in this situation. In his mind he made the right call which I agree with. Snowden respected the person's autonomy and privacy code of ethics when it came to the public but did not respect the autonomy and privacy of the perpetrators. He made a judgement call which he felt was right and but it did not benefit him as he became a wanted criminal after it. Snowden also misused his computer to leak private government data which does fall under the category of a computer misuse violation but like in every other situation, he did it to the benefit of the public and in turn gave up his freedom to do so. As for his colleagues, we don't know how they felt about him exposing the government. If they supported him then it may have benefitted them as well but if they were on the side of the government it was likely that it did not.

Overall I believe Snowden made the right decision by choosing the security of the people over the privacy of the government, and therefore, committed no ethical violations.