Ethics Assignment #3: Workplace Surveillance
Due: Thursday, 10.6.22, by 1:00 pm

Background

　　The lecture on Thursday is the first of two lectures on critical reasoning which we will use to construct and evaluate structured arguments. We'll use the hypothetical workplace surveillance scenario given below as our case study.

Learning Goals

By the end of the lecture, you should be able to:
* construct a formal argument using a set of premises and a conclusion
* distinguish between strong and weak arguments
* distinguish between descriptive and normative arguments
* determine whether an argument is logically valid
* construct a logically valid argument based on an ethical theory

Assignment

1. Consider the following hypothetical scenario:

   Suppose you're on the information services team of a large advertising firm. Your team holds a confidential meeting to talk about ways to improve productivity. The company president wants to ensure employees aren't sending personal emails or surfing the web for entertainment at work. The chief information officer (CIO) suggests informing employees that their email and web services will be monitored. In fact, the company doesn't have the resources to do this, so the monitoring will not actually be implemented. Employees will just be told it has been. What should you do?

   Evaluate the scenario by applying each of four ethical theories discussed in class on Thursday of Week 5: (a) rule utilitarianism, (b) rule deontology, (c) act deontology, and (d) social contract theory. **Recall that a summary of ethical theories is provided in the Ethics Information module in Canvas.**

2. Read the short article at www.ft.com/content/27faa953-1723-4597-a5a0-2ff9e617feab. How might workplace surveillance contribute to health problems?

3. Read the short article at www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/dec/02/microsoft-apologises-productivity-score-critics-derided-workplace-surveillance. Did Microsoft do the right thing? What are the pros and cons (if any) of Microsoft using a productivity score for individuals?

4. Read the short article at www.amanet.org/articles/the-latest-on-workplace-monitoring-and-surveillance/. This 2019 article is based on a 2007 survey, and workplace surveillance has probably increased. What are the three or four reasons why employers are performing workplace surveillance?

Create a PDF file of your answers to the questions. Submit your pdf via Canvas by 1:00 pm on Thursday, 10.6.22.