Michael Ludwikowski

Dr. Henderson

CSCI 325

30 November, 2023

Coding Ethics in the workplace

One of the largest issues that I envision for the sector of cybersecurity relates to privacy and protection of information. Organizational data breaches and ransomware are threatening issues in that they steal all your data and demand a payment to retrieve it. Such data is possessed by organizations and therefore has a moral obligation on them to guard against criminal hackers. Therefore, as a part of my work in cybersecurity, I will take the responsibility of keeping this information secure.

There are numerous firms that go through massive data breaches done by individuals who cannot be traced, and since these companies have the responsibility of the information they transport, it would be ethically wrong not to try harder to protect the information of the public. For instance, a firm like Equifax was breached by a user complaint web portal that could have been easily patched and wasn't. This kind of negligence is crucial, and as part of my job description, my role would be to identify and remediate such vulnerabilities.

It will be challenging to address such ethical issues at work with hackers making adjustments by the minute while corporations fall behind. While it makes it harder to maintain

ethical processes, one must be strong enough to face bad times with courage and keep working with passion to overcome the workload without leaving space for any loophole being exploited by the hackers. A proactive course of action involves safeguarding oneself and informing others how to do the same. Businesses must then collectively figure out the most efficient ways to protect people's information. Yet, having an entirely secure online environment seems far away with the speedy advancements of new technologies.

One of the main provisions of the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is seeking excellence in processes and products of professional work. That is, to ensure the work that you perform is of higher quality. As the rule states, "Computing professionals should insist on and support high quality work from themselves and from colleagues." Another most crucial factor in the workplace is section 2.4, "Accept and provide appropriate professional review," which indicates that the quality of one's work often relies on constructive feedback from peers. The IEEE Code of Ethics mirrors a great deal of the ACM code but includes the useful addition: "to hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, to strive to comply with ethical design and sustainable development practices, to protect the privacy of others, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment." This indicates how important it is to prioritize the public's welfare. If it were yours, you would likely want it protected as well as possible.

We can also look to the Bible where it says in Colossians 3:17 (NIV): "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Christians have an obligation to live by the principles of the Lord and

because of this being ethical in the workplace is imperative to bring honor to His name. This quote is also in compliance with both the IEEE and ACM code of conduct by reiterating the need for quality work that safeguards others and their data.

There are ethical issues everywhere when you work in cybersecurity, but one of the most visible issues is ensuring certain individuals' information is secure. Ultimately, it is on your company or organization where you are employed to uphold this task. At a personal level, I don't yet feel equipped to handle these issues. I believe I need more real-world experience in these areas or seek the opinion of someone who has experience handling such issues. I hope someday I can find an internship where I can learn the necessary skills and feel more comfortable handling ethical issues in the cybersecurity field.

Works cited.

1. IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers):

- URL: https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html

"Governance Documents - IEEE." IEEE, https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html

2. ACM (Association for Computing Machinery):

- URL: https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics

"ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct." Association for Computing Machinery, https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics.

3. Future of Tech:

- URL: https://www.futureoftech.org/cybersecurity/4-ethical-issues-in-cybersecurity/

"4 Ethical Issues in Cybersecurity - Future of Tech." Future of Tech, https://www.futureoftech.org/cybersecurity/4-ethical-issues-in-cybersecurity/.