

**Title: The Edward Snowden/Wiki Leaks Scandal and Its Descriptive Analysis.**

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### **Abstract**

Nowadays, technology like AI, Wi-Fi 6, and voice assistants have made life more convenient, but it has also led to an increase in cybercrimes, threatening personal data. The most famous case is Edward Snowden / WikiLeaks scandal. It is the well-known 2013. Edward Snowden used to work for the government and leaked highly classified information from the National Security Agency (NSA). Snowden communicated with WikiLeaks, an organization skilled at revealing secrets, and they published the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP) treaty, a document of great significance. The consequences followed. Snowden faced charges for sharing classified data and had to leave the country. This scandal raises important questions about when it is justified to expose secrets and when it crosses legal and ethical boundaries.

*Keywords:* descriptive analysis, Edward Snowden/Wiki Leaks, Wiki scandal, Snowden violated and its implication, ethical issues, Wiki Leaks scandal lesson learned

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Nowadays, with the development of computer science and technology such as AI – Artificial intelligence, Wi-Fi 6, and voice search or assistant, ... These innovations help people a lot to improve their daily activities, for example, faster research, faster data transferring, quicker money transfers. There are many advantages of technological development. However, its downside is that cybercrimes are increasing rapidly every single day and threatening the safety of personal information. According to Security Magazine (2021), the number of data breaching cases has “increased to a staggering 36 billion in 2020 and there were 2935 publicly reported breaches with an additional 8.3 billion records” (Henriquez, 2021). This shows that cybercrime and cyber regulation violations are increasing and there are more and more cybercrime scandals. One of the most famous scandals is the Edward Snowden and WikiLeaks scandal in 2013, he leaked the most important classified information from the National Security Agency (NSA) and is also known as the NSA Whistleblower. The purpose of this paper is to discuss and descriptive analysis of the Edward Snowden/Wiki Leaks scandal.

The questions are Who is Edward Snowden and who is WikiLeaks? According to Britannica.com, Edward Snowden is named in full Edward Joseph Snowden and was born in 1983 in California. He is an intelligent young boy but dropped out of high school, then he joined the army in 2004 (Ray, 2013). Snowden worked for (CIA) the Central Intelligence Agency in 2006, and then he left the CIA and worked for (the NSA) the National Security Agency as an intelligence contractor. His work gave him access to highly classified and sensitive information. The next is Wikileaks was founded by Julian Assange in 2006. According to the book *The Ethics of Wikileaks*, this organization “specializes in the analysis and publication of large datasets of censored or

otherwise restricted official materials involving war, spying, and corruption” (Taylor, 2017). They are also famous as a platform for “hacktivism.” So, this organization has a huge effect on the whole nation if they leak sensitive information. In short, Edward Snowden revealed and leaked NSA sensitive information which is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP) treaty to Wikileaks they public it to social media, and through this connection, this organization started to protect Edward Snowden (Taylor, 2017, p.21). Also, WikiLeaks aided Snowden on his run which was heading to Ecuador (Faiola, 2013), and helped him successfully get overseas.

Edward Snowden worked NSA and he worked at a base in Hawaii, then when he was 29 years old, he left the NSA and moved to Hong Kong. Then he secretly met with reporters and leaked out over “1.5 million classified documents from NSA” (U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2016). However, he insists he has not “shared the full ache of 1.5 million classified documents with anyone” (U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2016). There is information that after everything, he fled to Russia and remained there since June 23, 2013. The Committee made many unclassified findings which looked for Edward Snowden – the Whistleblower. After Edward Snowden contacted Wikileaks, on November 13, 2013, this organization released the full draft Trans-Pacific Partnership’s Intellectual Property Right Chapter document. So, what is the information in this document that makes it have a national impact? TTP is a “backroom corporate deal that enforces US interest and corporate hegemony over other countries.” (Taylor, 2017, p.32) This document has been kept in extreme secrecy which means that it should not be leaked out, and only “few members of Congress have seen part of it” (Taylor, 2017, p.32). According to the document: Review of the unauthorized disclosures of former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, the information that Snowden revealed is also “available to Russian, Chinese, Iranian, and North Korean government intelligence services and other terrorist.

Edward Snowden violated the laws and could be faced with the charge of the Espionage Act of 1917 for leaking highly classified information. This act states that it is a crime to “furnish transmit or communicate US intelligence material to a foreign government” (Boehme, 2017). This is the reason why he had to run away from the US government. In addition, he not only violates the laws but also disobeys the Code of Ethics, because he used his IT professional skills to steal Nation classified data and reveal it to other countries. According to NBC News, Edward Snowden has been charged with three extreme violations: “theft of government, offenses under the espionage statutes, and giving national defense information without any security clearance” (Williams, 2013). Also, because there are 10 years maximum in prison for each charge, it could add up to 30 years in prison. In addition, besides the violation law charge, there could be a charge for violating the Code of Ethics, based on South Carolina’s law if one disobeys the ethics standards the maximum charge is \$5000, and in prison maximum is 1 year (Quiner, 2021).

In conclusion, one of the most famous scandals about data breaches is the Edward Snowden/ WikiLeaks scandal. Snowden was a contractor who worked for NSA and had access to highly classified data. Unfortunately, he leaked this information to WikiLeaks and then they published it to the world. I think that what Edward Snowden has done is wrong because he both violated the ethical code and the Espionage Act. He used his IT professional skills to do the bad thing that is stealing and leaking over 1.5 million classified information to other countries and these countries could be enemies. These countries could use this information against the United States, and it will affect a lot of people.

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