**Case Study 7: Responsible Use of Technology**

***An employee at a tech company creates a software program that can be used***

***to break into computer systems. The employee is torn between the potential financial***

***gain from selling the program and the ethical and legal implications of creating such a***

***tool.***

Guide Questions:

1. What ethical issues are raised in this case study?

* Privacy, Data Privacy, Integrity, and Confidentiality are some key ethical issues highlighted in this case study. If the employee has a sense of honesty within him then he would not think twice to report this system to the employer. But in this case, he is having a second thought on selling the system which is unethical and illegal. Another ethical issue includes the potential harm that could come from the use of the tool and the responsibility of the employee to consider the impact of their actions on the wider community and society as a whole.

1. What legal responsibilities does the employee have?

* The employee has a legal responsibility to refrain from creating such software that could potentially harm other people or take their data without their consent. This skill should instead be used in an ethical activity because their skills and knowledge in technology industry could be much more beneficial.

1. What is the impact of creating a tool that can be used to break into computer systems?

* First of all, creating such tool is unethical and the employee and company could face legal and professional consequences. Second, it can compromise the security and privacy of sensitive information which would lead to financial loss and cause harm to the reputation of the affected person. Third, if this tool gets out to hackers, they could use this software to spread malware or cyber-attacks on other people.

1. Should the employee sell the software program or report it to their employer or law enforcement?

* The most appropriate action to do in this situation is to report it to their employer or law enforcement because the potential harm that could be done would be much greater than the financial gain he would have if he was caught selling the software. It would take him much more money to afford lawyers for legal actions and pay fines for the damages he done to the people and would also harm the reputation of the company.

1. What measures should be taken to prevent the creation and sale of harmful technology?

* People who work in the field of technology should be educated on the ethical and legal implications of their work, and should be encouraged to report any concerns or issues they may have to the appropriate authorities. They should also know that any harmful software they create could just bring fear to the people and would hinder the progress of technology.