In our first assignment on Moodle, we are told to read the beginning of an article of the ethics in engineering and specifically software engineering and to answer some questions about 2 separate case studies. First, I will post my thoughts on the first few pages of the article and then post my answers to the questions.

I believe ethics is lost in the modern workplace. Having worked for many different companies including the United State Military, I believe most companies push the minimal amount of information to their workforce that will lessen their likelihood of being sued or having a legal issue internally. The only "ethics" training I have ever received in any job has been the standard sexual harassment talk, in which alot of places still joke about. At one place of employment, my sexual harassment course was focused around the line "It's like the Army, just a little different. Don't ask for no tail."

Companies focus on small areas of personal ethics in their entry level jobs but I would assume, or hope rather, that they focus on professional ethics in their management. I feel like the post-secondary education system does rather well informing students of ethical issues. With that said, I don't believe any one person can learn too much about ethical issues and processes to perform your job while upholding all ethical norms.

Case Study 1:

1.1) I believe Mike suffered psychological and emotional harm. The effect of his inability to provide something he has worked so hard for the last 17 to 18 years can have a significant impact on one's emotional well-being. Sarah, on the other hand, will deal with major harms done to her educational and professional life. The opportunities lost by this event are completely immeasurable.

1.2) This issue could be a large spectrum of scenarios, such as poor software testing and insufficient security causing a vulnerability. Poor software testing can be, but is not limited to, little to no in code tests to assure no error is made during code execution and little to no testing of the application during its current working version development. A security flaw could have been accidental or purposed, but either way it could have left a way for malicious third-parties to enter their system and affect bank members’ accounts.

1.3) Both scenarios above could include judgments lacking in ethical consideration. Lack of a testing suite or production testing can be caused by a restriction of time and/or money or the software engineer may not believe it is necessary, which is not ethical. A purposed security flaw is a definite ethical fail on the part of the software engineer but intentional backdoors are allowed in many pieces of software regularly.