

Short Write-Up – 1

Read the following case example of an ethical dilemma [Yuthas and Dillard]:

Granger Stokes, managing partner of the venture capital firm of Halston and Stokes, was dissatisfied with the top management of PrimeDrive, a manufacturer of computer disk drives. Halston and Stokes had invested \$20 million in PrimeDrive, and the return on their investment had been below par for several years. In a tense meeting of the board of directors of PrimeDrive, Stokes exercised his firm's rights as a major equity investor in PrimeDrive and fired PrimeDrive's chief executive officer (CEO). He then quickly moved to have the board of directors of PrimeDrive appoint himself as the new CEO.

Stokes prided himself on his hard-driving management style. At the first management meeting, he asked two of the managers to stand and fired them on the spot, just to show everyone who was in control of the company. At the budget review meeting that followed, he ripped up the departmental budgets that had been submitted for his review and yelled at the managers for their "wimpy, do nothing targets." He then ordered everyone to submit new budgets calling for at least a 40% increase in sales volume and announced that he would not accept excuses for results that fell below budget.

Keri Kalani, an accountant working for the production manager at PrimeDrive, discovered toward the end of the year that her boss had not been scrapping defective disk drives that had been returned by customers. Instead, he had been shipping them in new cartons to customers in order to avoid booking losses. Quality control had deteriorated during the year as a result of the drive for increased volume and returns of defective TRX drives were running as high as 15% of the new drives shipped. When she confronted her boss with her discovery, he told her to mind her own business. And then, in the way of a justification for his actions, he said, "All of us managers are finding ways to hit Stoke's targets".

CSCE 390: Professional Issues in Computer Science and Engineering

Instructions: Answer the following questions for the above example case:

- Identify (1-2 sentences) the “ethical dilemma” – or ethical question – in the case. Pose an open-ended question that generates many potential answers, not a question that can be answered with a “yes” or “no”. (0.5 points)

The ethical dilemma is that a new manager has asserted themselves into a powerful position such that all other employees must meet the manager’s demands through any means necessary. My open-ended question is: What should Keri do in this scenario since she figured out what was going on?

- Identify (1-2 sentences) the role that information technology played in creating the special circumstances of the case. (0.5 points)

Information technology plays a role in creating this circumstance by being the product being made and reused. PrimeDrive is making computer disk drives, which are information technology.

- List four (4) critical stakeholders in the case and identify an important right of each stakeholder (4 points)

The four stakeholders in this case are Stokes, the employees (like Keri), the customers, and the managers.

Stokes has a right to free speech. The employees have a right to know and a right to free speech. The customers have a right to know. The managers have a right to free speech.

Submission: Upload your solution(*in PDF format*) on Blackboard.