I chose to write about Edward Snowden’s release of classified NSA information as my ethical quandary for this assignment. The United States itself could be considered as one giant “super system,” so anything that affects the US will likely affect an unquantifiable amount of socio, political, economic, and technological systems. Therefore, it was kind of tricky to narrow it down to a few, so I tried to keep the systems I chose as closely related to the situation as possible. One quandary/system I found particularly interesting was the interpersonal systems between Snowden and his colleagues. Regardless of whether one believes that Snowden was right or wrong, he no doubt put his colleagues jobs in danger, as well as some people’s physical safety. It is hard to tell since he is not able to speak with them, but I wonder what his coworkers think about what he did. Would they even be willing to talk to him again? Would they secretly thank him for speaking up, or would they resent him? Anyone who has worked in an office setting knows that the system of relationships you have with your colleagues is very important and complex at times…I would be curious to quantify how disruptive his actions were to that system in the long term of that office’s operations.

One other important thing that I wanted to address that involves multiple quandaries listed is the right to personal privacy and its effect on systems everywhere. People often assume that right to privacy is solely a political issue, but it is far more than that. Of course, the question of balancing privacy and security as well as what right we have to it *does* affect the political system. However, any change to this idea results in changes in economic systems as well, giving life or death to many different business strategies in one fell swoop. It would affect technical systems too: an increase in required security could necessitate entire re-designs of existing communications and IT systems, a move which in-and-of-itself would also affect business strategies as such a change will be expensive. A decrease in required security could also result in businesses creating new systems to attempt to channel new sources of datamining that were restricted before. It would also change cultural systems as well, as consumers’ expectations would likely change *far* faster than any of the other systems could keep up, leading to dissatisfaction with the state of technology as a whole in society. Any kind of change in privacy would have far reaching consequences across numerous systems, just as our current laws affect numerous systems.