Sessional 1

Solution

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Sessional-1 Examination Spring-2021
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1. Question

You worked for a software firm developing countless programs for many years. Over those years you have made several software libraries that help you do your job. You decided to move on to a new company. After a few weeks you realize that you can use the libraries from your old job to help with your new job. What do you do? How would you respond in a way that is legal, moral, and ethical.

1.1 Answer

Legal: It's probably a violation of my employment agreement. Typically, I don't have license to use code that I wrote on company time. I should read my employment agreement to answer this question. If I am not the copyright owner of that code, then my employer was the owner. I can use the code only if you have a license to do so. For example, if they offer the code under an open-source license, I could re-use the code, but only while following the terms of that license. I recommend myself implement original code for your personal projects, to avoid the potential violation. Keep my personal code only on my own personal computer, not the computer provided by my employer, unless I have specific written permission to use their resources for personal projects, with a written acknowledgement of the code they allow you to keep copyright ownership. Furthermore, If the code is copyrighted and I need to use the same code then either I will purchase the license or I will write a permission letter to the previous company for seeking permission to use those libraries for the project of current company.

Moral: Even if the code is not licensed, still it is immoral to use this code without the original company consent. I should seek permission from the company or let them know about the reuse of the code.

Ethical: Even if the code is open-source, I will give proper credit about where this code is originated.

2. Question

Umar is working on a project for his Data Structure course. Instructor has allotted a fix amount of computer time for the project. This time is enforced by the computer system. Umar runs out of time but has not yet finished the project. Instructor cannot be reached. Umar worked last year as a co-op programmer in the department. He is very familiar with procedures used to

increase time allocations to accounts. Using what he learned last year, he can access the master account. Then he gives himself additional time. He now completes his project. Apply the ACM code of ethics in this scenario.

2.1 Answer

In the given scenario, following rules are violated:

Principle 1.5: "Honour property rights including copyrights and patents."

Principle 2.3: "Know and respect existing laws pertaining to professional work."

Principle 2.8: "Access communication resources only when authorized to do so."

As a member of the ACM, Umar must follow the code of ethics even if he does not consider himself a computing professional.