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CS 405: Secure Coding: Dr. Sarah North

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**Consider the Motive for the Attack**

In one’s own practice, a developer should incorporate the concept of looking for motives as a fundamental step in the development process. This means that before diving into the actual programming or implementing a solution, I, as a developer, will need to spend time understanding the underlying motives and goals of the project or feature. This involves not only understanding the technical requirements but also comprehending the broader business objectives and user needs.

Applying the concept of looking for motives aligns well with secure programming best practices. by understanding the motives behind a feature or project, the potential security risks can be better assessed and implement appropriate measures to mitigate them. For instance, if the motive is to handle sensitive user data, I would prioritize encryption and access control measures to ensure data confidentiality.

When explaining this concept to a new developer on my team, I would emphasize the importance of not just focusing on the “what” and “how” of a task but also delving into the “why”. I would encourage the new developers to ask questions like: “Why are we building this feature?”, “What problem are we trying to solve?”, “What are the business goals associated with this project?”. By understanding the motives, developers can make more informed decisions during the development process and contribute to a more successful outcome.

In my final reflection, I could provide a specific example of how looking for motives positively impacted on a project. For example, if a team member identified the motive behind a particular user history as improving user engagement rather than just implementing a new feature, it could lead to more effective and user-centric solutions. This approach not only enhances the quality of the code, but also contributes to the overall success of the project by aligning development efforts with the underlying motives.

Incorporating the concept of looking for motives in my development practice involves critical reflection, adherence to secure programming practices, and effective articulation of this concept to the team. This approach can lead to more purposeful and successful development outcomes.