

Term Paper

A code of ethics is a set of important principles, values, and virtues that a person holds themselves to abide by with their actions throughout the day. These standards are often not well known by other people and it is up to each individual to hold themselves accountable with each decision they may make. Although, in most cases someone's own code of ethics is a personal matter, a person's words and actions can often represent and display strong qualities of a person's inner beliefs. These beliefs that everyone has are learned from watching those around them and reacting to how they approach decisions and absorbing qualities they see as beneficial into their own belief system. One important aspect that I want to always be true is that when other people view my actions, my code of ethics shines through and can have a positive impact on others views and how they should act in a similar situation. A few pieces of my personal conduct that will be important as I enter the cybersecurity field will include dependability, integrity, and open-mindedness. I believe that by always following these three principles of character, I can strive in a field that is constantly evolving and changing as the days pass.

One of the most important things that I try to confirm through my actions is to be a dependable person. I want to be able to complete anything that is asked of me within reasonable bounds. Throughout my life so far this has come mostly in the form of completing homework and other assignments of time for school and this pattern will continue until I graduate. This class has done a little bit to help me grow in this field because of the penalties put in place for being late and inconsistent. The fear of a punishment like losing a grade has been a motivating factor in my dependability in the past. On a more personal level, I believe that this trait has been instilled in me because of my worry about how other people may view me if I cannot complete tasks assigned to me and potentially let down someone that I care about. This dependability that I

display to others means that they understand that they can rely on me which will cause them to continue to put their trust in me and ask for help with things important to them. This trait also has personal benefits that include a reciprocal relationship where those who trust me will also be able to be trusted upon more. The more people that I have in my circle of trust, the closer we can be and the more help we can get from each other. Those are many personal reasons that I hold dependency highly in my code of ethics, but it will also be useful in cyber security positions.

One aspect of a potential employee that an employer desires is knowing what you will get out of a candidate, and I think that if I can always follow through with tasks placed upon me and do what is expected I can usually look good in the eyes of those who are watching. If I can go into any workplace and meet any reasonable deadline and do so with my best effort I will have a much better chance of succeeding at any cybersecurity job. Later when this skill potentially helps me land a job, I feel that it will work to increase my enjoyment when working because of additional tasks I may be given. After completing the normal workload I have more interesting opportunities that may come my way because of the certainty I have had before in fulfilling my duties. This attribute will also have an impact on my decision making when encountering an ethical dilemma. My choices regarding a difficult choice may be largely influenced by what other people may think about how I decide. This could cause me to pick a side that will be more favorable for those who expect something from me because I wouldn't want them to feel rejected based on my decision. Although following this part of my code of ethics is mostly good, there is a drawback to this virtue when it comes to challenging problems. My desire to always do satisfactory work can sometimes cause me to be too afraid to tackle large obstacles because of the increased chance of failure. This sometimes causes me to just be satisfied with the things I can currently do well and I may not always have the drive to challenge myself and get better at

things that I can't currently do well. Once I get better at overcoming this fear of failure when others need my help, this self held value will be influential in my success as a cyber security professional.

The next virtue that I hold highly in my code of ethics is my integrity. This attribute involves always putting my full effort into anything I try to do along with remaining honest with my words and actions throughout each day. I have currently been working on my integrity while being involved in several group projects that are being completed in various classes. This group work also fits into the category of dependability because I understand that I have to work my hardest to succeed in my role on the team because my work affects others and their grades for that class. In these groups, communication is a large aspect of how successful they can be and I believe that honesty and being able to admit failures allows for better teamwork. One example of how I applied this value was admitting to how I had procrastinated on one section of our project and that I now needed help to be able to properly complete the task on a timely matter. This honesty produced the help I needed and resulted in a better grade for that section of the class. Regarding our class, we have spoken in discussions about how failing to maintain proper integrity and being honest about your own or others' mistakes can be harmful. A more specific instance of this would be when topics of data security were mentioned and potential system vulnerabilities had been found and now you must decide how to properly report the error. This brings the question of integrity into the scope because your honesty may depend on whose fault this problem was or who may be affected by this vulnerability. This situation leads into how having a strong sense of integrity can impact performance in the workplace.

Integrity can be a very valuable piece to have in your code of ethics because it allows others to trust you to make the right decisions. This can help to be entrusted with important jobs

that may involve protection of sensitive information that could cause harm if the improper decisions are made because of their understanding of the thoughtfulness and awareness of what the honest resolution is to the particular conflict. A struggle that I can envision stemming from trying to maintain integrity would be a conflict with another branch of my ethical code, which is dependability. A possible scenario that fits this criteria could be when I am asked by a superior to complete a task that may not fit into what I think is right. This could include hiding a mistake that they made and not telling the proper people about the issue for the sake of someone I may be working with. This clash of ideals would result in needing to prioritize one over the other in the current situation I find myself in, and in the scenario described I believe that integrity would prevail. The potential damage that could be caused to more people and the possible threat that would lie behind any lies I told would far outweigh the guilt I would feel for upsetting one person who had made this mistake in the first place. I hope that in the future my integrity will shine through my actions if I am ever forced to make decisions that question this aspect of my code of ethics.

One other category that is of utmost importance in my code of ethics is open-mindedness. This category includes ideas like considering others' point of view and trying new experiences. These concepts help to keep expanding one's knowledge and understanding of the world outside of their familiar environment. I have learned by following this ideology that obtaining experiences that are new has a large impact on your understanding of how your decisions can impact other people. Being open to learning about others and trying things that you haven't done before allows you to absorb perspectives that differ from your own and gives insight to how other people feel about different situations and what choices you can make to improve the situation based on the many views that you now understand. This class has helped to increase

my understanding of thinking outside of my own space and beginning to comprehend how others would react and feel based on security decisions that I make. One great example was the discussion we had in class about activating cameras on laptops being used by younger kids at home and pushing us to think about how it would be for teachers not being able to see the students at all times or how the parents would feel about someone having access to view the children's laptop camera. These thoughts about how others would think about a situation are a needed skill to have when approaching any ethical dilemma and they are constantly needed in the cyber security field.

While working to keep systems and networks secure you constantly need to think about how others involved in the system are approaching it. By being able to view a network similarly to an attacker you would be better equipped to prevent the possible vulnerabilities that they could exploit to get into your companies machines. This practice is common in the cyber security space and can be done as a primary job as a penetration tester. Along with using open-mindedness to understand the problems that need to be fixed, you must also look at it from the viewpoint of a user and understand the functionality and practicality of each feature and used port of an application. Knowing what a user needs to be able to perform their necessary tasks allows for the best security while not infringing on the usability of whatever machine or application in question. By being an open-minded person and seeking out experiences to obtain new insight on how others feel and think can grant lots of new opportunities and advancements not only in cyber security but many other aspects in life.

While my code of ethics was summarized in three main categories that I feel best displayed what characteristics I use when making decisions, a lot more topics become factors that influence my actions throughout the day. None will be as important in choices I make

throughout my life as trying to always be a person who others can rely on and produce results that they know will be my best work, always using my own moral code when tough conflicts occur and I am being tasked with resolving them, and grasping any chance I get to better understand people and learn how their experiences shape the way they view events in the world in order to use their perspective to become a better problem solver in a cyber security position. If there is one thing that I want from my code of ethics, it is that they are evident and clear to show to everybody in the actions that I make while pursuing a career as a cyber security professional.