

CSE487: Cybersecurity, Law and Ethics [Summer 2022]

Section: 03

Mini Project - 3 (Opposition)

Project Report

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Summary of the Opponent's Scenario and Ethical Dilemma

A company named CyberStuff plans to buy software to run a cloud data-storage business. They want to hire a consultant, who has a small consulting business, to evaluate bids from vendors. However, the consultant's spouse wrote the bid that NetWorkx plans to submit. While his wife was working on the bid, he read it and thought it was perfect.

So, to maintain his ethics, he can:

- Inform nothing about his connection (his wife is working in NetWorkx) and continue with the consulting job.
- Inform the connection (his wife is working in NetWorkx) to the client (CyberStuff) and lose the job.
- Quit the job without informing about the connection.

Strongest Aspect of the Opponent's Work

We can see some of the advantages of the opposition's efforts here. Their example scenario depicts a scenario with three likely outcomes. They attempted to include practically all potential solutions for their issues. Additionally, they have identified the stakeholders and listed the likely risks and outcomes. Some moral and immoral choices were available to them. The advantages of going one route, the risks of going the other way, and the degree of risk are all discussed. Their presentation of two codes of conduct—SE Code Principle 4.05 and ACM Code 2.5—is the most impressive aspect of their work. By using these two codes of conduct, they have decided what to do in this situation.

Weakest Aspect of the Opponent's Work

They also have some weakest aspects in addition to their strongest aspects. Some weaknesses in the work of opponents are:

- Their way of presenting the scenario and the dilemma.
- Assuming evaluation as a decision. Usually, it provides metrics.
- Inappropriate accusation on NetWorkx company's reputation risk.

Other than that, in their list of dangers and difficulties, they listed some likely choices, but there are various ways to escape the dilemma. For example, quitting the job is not an option (he owns the business), but he could have terminated their contracts with CyberStuff. If his honesty is respected, the company may have offered him the opportunity.

Criticisms and Suggestions for the Opponent's Decision

The opponent's method of presenting the situation and the issue is insufficient. The scenario lacks sentences that tie the events together. Concerning the consultant role, why is he quitting?

He owns a modest consulting firm, according to the scenario, but why would he quit his job if he owned the company?

Another flaw in the scenario is that it will not damage his employment if he notifies CyberStuff about the link because a group of people does evaluations. Additionally, evaluation is not a decision-making process since CyberStuff bases its conclusion on the metrics provided by evaluation, such as an examination of software quality, cost, maintenance, etc. Therefore, the opposition's view is rather hazy.

Finally, the report noted the reputation risk to the NetWorkx company, which is incorrect in this situation because the man's reference to the client's link to the fact that his spouse works for NetWorkx does not in any way reflect negatively on the NetWorkx company. If their relationship is revealed, the consulting person or the consultant's spouse will be held accountable or given a bad reputation.

We might make some suggestions on their work. Given the ambiguity of the situation, our first recommendation relates to it. To be grasped, the information must be presented in the context of a situation. However, the scenario has gaps. This made it difficult for us to comprehend the scenario they were trying to illustrate. The second idea will concern evaluation, which is performed by a group and not an individual. The third possibility is that the NetWorkx company's image is not in jeopardy, but the consultant and his spouse's reputations are in jeopardy due to their concealed link.

As the study demonstrates, the opposition's identification and naming of risks and consequences were mostly accurate, although there were a few flaws. We agree with their choice to "Tell CyberStuff about the connection (his wife works at NetWorkx)" after presenting many viable solutions based on the challenge. Due to the fact that their ethical judgment was founded on honesty, he may lose the CyberStuff contract, but his honesty will be admired.