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**Applying Normative Ethical Approaches in Computer Science**

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I chose to write about the first case study, here is a mostly copy pasted summary of the case study: A tech company (I believe Apple, probably multiple companies) was asked by the FBI to unlock the smart phone of a criminal. The FBI argues that the encryption technology hampers their ability to investigate and prevent criminal activities, such as terrorism and child exploitation, and they request that the company build a permanent "backdoor" to allow access to criminals' phones. The company must decide whether to comply with this request and how to balance user privacy with public safety concerns.

I believe that most Utilitarianists would side with the FBI on this one because I think most, but not all, would believe that more “good” would come from the FBI having the backdoor than “bad” would happen from the FBI, and any bad actors who find it, using the backdoor with malicious intent. I think some Utilitarians would think that the “bad” from the misuse of the backdoor would outweigh the “good”, while others would think that not much misuse would happen.

I believe a Virtue Ethicist would be against the backdoor. It's a virtue to not take what's not yours, and it's a virtue to not pry into people's private matters. Letting the FBI and anyone who figures out the back door access people's private information is not virtuous behavior and therefore is unethical. Seeing as Virtue Ethics doesn't have the Kantian Universality aspect as much, I could maybe see some Virtue Ethicists thinking that the information on a criminal’s phone is no longer considered private once the phone is considered evidence.

Finally, I believe all Deontologists would be against an FBI back door. Implementing a backdoor into iPhones would be implementing an exception to your privacy. Furthermore, whatever rules we apply to one company we must apply to them all, so we would need every company to provide the FBI with a backdoor. If this happened the FBI would immediately use the backdoor to invade the public’s privacy as a means to catch many criminals, which as we both know is against the core values of Deontology. 😎