

COSC244
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1. Robin has the right idea seeking advice from the IITP Code of Ethics and Practice. There are three main issues that may arise and conflict with these codes.
The first is her lack of experience. As a student fresh out of university with a PhD, she is lacking practical experience. Tempting as it may be to just say yes to the offer from this transport company due to her wanting to make a good reputation for herself and needing to pay off her student loan, she is required to let the client know if the the work to be undertaken is out of her limits or competence level (IITP Code of Ethics 2.4.4).
The second issue that may arise is in relation to the requested research investigation. There are specific clauses in the IITP Code of Ethics focused on Research. Clause 4.2.1 states that Robin must be aware if the research is benefiting the organization at the detriment of the community, she must also be aware of any potential misuse of her research, and be sure that the data used in her research was obtained consensually. If the transport company plans to use her research to have a negative affect on the public or they didn't inform and obtain consent from the humans their data came from, according to the ITTP Code of Ethics 3.2.1 she must lodge a complaint as there would be a breach of the Coe of Ethics.
The third issue that may arise is attributable to Robins research having a negative effect on her community. The IITP Code of Ethics states that it is the member's responsibility to ensure the welfare and rights of the community come before her responsibility to her profession (1.3). If she becomes aware of any instances where her research becomes a threat to her community, she must make the client aware and lodge a complaint with the Code of Ethics.
My recommendation for Robin would be to firstly let her employer know that she may find the work required challenging as she is a new graduate because if she does not she is in breech of clause 2.4.5 of the Code of Ethics and 2.8 of the Code of Practice. Secondly, to make sure she is aware of the clients intended use of her research and ensure that she agrees with this, and thirdly, to be continuously aware of the potential for her research to be used maliciously against her community. If she can manage these three recommendations, and feel equipped and prepared to do the work, she should accept the job.
2. I'm sure that it may be tempting for Payle to perform this task without regard to its risks in order to maintain his job stability, but there are possible consequences for both him and his employer if he does accept this request.
The first and most evident is a likely conflict of interest that breeches the IITP Code of Practice clause 2.1. Based on the information provided, Payle is not in the most financially stable position at the moment, and the work he is being asked to do will likely result in him having to develop an algorithm that would deny himself a loan. He may notice that he is unable to remain objective in this scenario and according to clause 2.8 in the Code of Practice he must notify his client of this.
The second issue of Payle to be aware of is the security risks that come with changing any standing algorithm. According to clauses 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 of the Code of Practice, if Payle is to alter the algorithm he must remain up to date with any threats and vulnerabilities that may arise over the course of his development. He must also make sure that decision makers are fully aware of any possible consequences of their decisions, this may come into play if Payle has not ensured that the algorithm is secure before the client wants it implemented.
Accordance with these clauses is extremely important in the implementation of loan algorithms that analyse previous credit of customers as shown by the Equifax hack earlier this year that meant full histories of just less than half of the united states were vulnerable to identify theft.
Clause 3.5.1 in the Code of Practice supported with 1.3 in the Code of Ethics also states that when advising on business change, Payle must monitor the progress of the changes, learn from any mistakes, and resolve any problems that arise with his algorithm's implementation in order to respect the welfare and rights of the community.
Based on my analysis, I suggest that Payle decide not to accept the work changing the loan offering algorithm. His conflict of interest is one that should not be overlooked, and the level of security awareness and upkeep sounds as if it may be much more than he can handle alone at this difficult time in his life.
3. Being a mother herself, it seems as if Sanja would be in favour of assisting the police in their aim to identify trigger words from her line of internet-connected toys. As mentioned, we all agree that domestic abuse is a serious matter and we would want to help minimise the number of children subjected to it, but there are ethical concerns with what the police want to

use her toys for.

The first concern would be the possible conflict of interest (IITP Code of Practice clause 2.1) that Sanja has. She is a mother and wants to ensure her children's safety in any way that she can. When considering cooperation with the police on this matter, her conflict of interest could cause her to overlook other ethical dilemmas that may arise from their intended actions.

The next concern arises from the police's desire to obtain information that the children cannot consent to. The age of consent in New Zealand is 16 and so no child can consent to their words being recorded and used in any manner, irrespective of the fact that children cannot consent, their parents would also have to consent to the possible use of any information gathered via the toy. In alignment with clause 4.2.1 from the Code of Practice, any data used by a party must be obtained consensually. Although this breach of clause could be combatted by clearly stating what the information gathered was going to be used for by the police on the packaging, it seems unlikely that the police would support this as it could make their aims much harder to reach.

The final ethical issue facing Sanja is clause 1.3 from the IITP Code of Ethics. It states that it is the member's responsibility to ensure that the welfare and rights of the community should come before their responsibility to their profession. Although obtaining the desired information from these toys could be argued to protect the welfare of the community, it is a breach of their rights if it is obtained without the user's acknowledgement. This clause creates a grey area as to whether or not it breaches the Code of Ethics but should still be taken seriously.

My advice for Sanja is to not proceed with the actions that the police want to undertake. She has a conflict of interest that may affect her ability to be objective about the situation (2.8 IITP Code of Practice) that needs to be made aware of to the police. She also is required under clause 1.6 of the Code of Ethics to notify the police of any legal consequences of their desired actions, of which there are many. Although it may seem that her work will protect her community, her conflict of interest may result in her ignoring the breach of other clauses in the code.

4. If I was to proceed with the task presented to me by the supermarket there would be many issues that I would need to have addressed in accordance with the IITP Code of Ethics and Code of Practice.

First off I have a conflict of interest that may breach clause 2.1 of the Code of Practice and clause 1.7 of the Code of Ethics if I do not inform the client. I myself have worked in a supermarket as an employee and would not have appreciated the use of the software I have been asked to develop. This conflict of interest would likely get in the way of my ability to produce software that would be constantly be tracking the activity of employees.

The second ethical issue I have with developing this software is the breach of privacy of the employees. They would need to provide informed consent to this software being used on them and I find it unlikely that they will be inclined to do this when they realise that the software could track things like what they do on their breaks, bathroom visits, and customer interactions. The IITP Code of Practice states that any data must be obtained consensually from humans (clause 4.2.1) and I, having worked for a supermarket myself, would be worried that most employees would not want to consent to this information being tracked, but may feel compelled to in order to keep their job. If employees "consent" out of the threat of possibly losing their jobs, it is in fact not legal consent.

The final issue I have with creating this software is with the business's use of the information gathered. It seems to me that the client would not fully disclose their intent for this software. According to the Code of Ethics clause 2.6.2 I would be caught between the expectations of my client and the interest of the community. Although I may receive a description of what the client plans to use my software for, I would be unlikely to be fully on board with it based on my perceptions of what the information could be used for/how it was obtained.

Personally, I would not take this opportunity. I see too many ethical dilemmas with my own personal experience and my desire to protect the rights of my community. I cannot, based on my analysis above, justify my involvement in this project as not breaching the Code of Ethics and Code of Practice.