

## **Collaborative Discussion 1: Peer Response 2 (306 words)**

Hi Amrol,

Thank you for discussion post, I believe this is a highly relevant topic in the age of balancing user rights to privacy, “always-on” availability of paid services and ensuring a safe environment on the Internet. You have effectively highlighted the ethical concerns of the company, Rogue Web Services. Additionally, you have appropriately referenced ethical guidelines from the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and British Computer Society (BCS), particularly focusing on harm, which Rogue Web Services seems to violate through its actions.

To make the discussion more effective, I would conduct a more in-depth analysis of the specific harms caused by the clients of the hosting company. While you have briefly mentioned malware and spam, elaborating further on the type of harm caused upon individuals and organisations would have strengthened the argument. Another challenge which is more nuanced is what you have highlighted under the Public Interest guidelines from BCS, particularly on protecting the security and privacy of individuals. You could potentially argue that the “guaranteed uptime, no matter what” policy of the host upholds a critical GDPR requirement of availability, also a requirement under the CIA (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability) triad (ICO, n.d.). This specifically requires that the users must always have access to their data, which is met by this policy. This also opens a wider discussion on platforms which are at risk of hosting potentially harmful content on their platforms for the sake of ensuring full privacy of their customers, and the balancing act in the light of the Online Safety Act as discussed by Clifford (2024). However, generally, under this use case, it is clear

that the release of malware and spyware violates all other aspects of the triad, but interestingly, in real life, little action is taken by hosts to tackle this (Canali et al., 2013).

Thanks again for your contribution.

#### References:

Canali, D., Balzarotti, D. and Francillon, A., 2013, May. The role of web hosting providers in detecting compromised websites. In *Proceedings of the 22nd international conference on World Wide Web* (177-188).

Clifford, A. (2024) Does the Online Safety Act violate privacy too harshly over security concerns? Richardson Institute for Peace Studies @ Lancaster University. Available from: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/richardson-institute/blogs/does-the-online-safety-act-violate-privacy-too-harshly-over-security-concerns> [Accessed 6 February 2025]

ICO (n.d.) A guide to data security. ICO. Available from: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/security/a-guide-to-data-security/> [Accessed 6 February 2025]