Dear Alexandra,

Thank you for sharing your insights on the case study regarding dark UX patterns. Your analysis clearly illustrates how failing to adhere to a code of conduct can lead to significant ethical issues. I believe this situation may also result from a lack of organizational policy; without such frameworks, even well-intentioned professionals may struggle to uphold high ethical standards. This aligns with Principle 3.4 of the ACM Code of Conduct, as highlighted in the case study, emphasizing the need for leaders to pursue clearly defined organizational policies consistent with the Code.

I also agree with Thomas's points regarding the legal implications. It's essential to evaluate these scenarios not only from an ethical standpoint but also in terms of legal accountability. Additionally, public awareness plays a crucial role. Educating users about their rights and helping them recognize unfair practices aligns with ACM Code of Conduct Principle 2.7, which promotes public understanding of computing and its societal impacts.

Both the ACM and BCS Codes of Conduct stress the importance of public interest and responsible behaviour among computing professionals. However, as you noted, there is a clear failure to protect the public good in this case.

To conclude, prioritizing ethical standards and fostering public awareness is essential for creating a more secure technological environment.

References:

ACM (n.d.). *The code affirms an obligation of computing professionals to use their skills for the benefit of society.* Code of Ethics. **https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics** [Accessed: 27 October 2024].

BCS (n.d.) BCS Code of conduct. https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct [Accessed: 27 October 2024].

Hello Mario,

Thank you for sharing your insights on the important topic of rogue web services. As I analysed this case, I found myself reflecting on the rationale behind the creation of the ACM and BCS codes of conduct.

In today's rapidly advancing technological landscape, the general public, employees, and other stakeholders increasingly expect technology companies to uphold a significant responsibility for the public good. In response, these codes of ethics were established to guide professionals in assessing the impact of their actions and to encourage the adoption of responsible practices in their work. Violating these principles can not only damage a company's reputation but also adversely affect the careers of computing professionals.

Moreover, I discovered that the ACM Code of Conduct was updated in 2018 to address the evolving challenges within the technology sector, which is crucial for maintaining the relevance of ethical guidelines. This update ensures that ethical considerations align with current practices and the issues faced by professionals in the field.

It is essential for tech industry professionals to remain informed about updated ethical standards, as this knowledge benefits both organizations and society as a whole. This emphasis underscores the BCS Code of Conduct's principle of continuously developing your professional knowledge, skills, and competence while staying aware of technological advancements, procedures, and standards relevant to your field.

References:

BCS (n.d.) BCS Code of conduct. https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct [Accessed: 27 October 2024].

InfoQ. (2019). Why should we care about technology ethics? the updated ACM Code of Ethics. https://www.infoq.com/articles/acm-code-ethics/ [Accessed: 02 November 2024].

Dear Gareth,

Thank you for sharing your insights on this critical case. This example highlights how the shift from non-lethal to lethal responses in attack situations places the public good in severe jeopardy. Such a transition increases risks to civilians and also violates the ethical standards set forth in both the ACM and BCS Codes of Conduct, as you mentioned.

While the engineers who chose to speak out may have breached confidentiality agreements, their actions can be considered ethically justified due to their commitment to public safety, which are central considerations of both the ACM and BCS codes. By voicing their concerns, they prioritized the greater good and fulfilled their ethical obligations, specifically under ACM Principle 3.1 and BCS Principle 1.

Additionally, the BCS principle concerning professional integrity emphasizes the necessity for IT professionals to understand and comply with relevant legislation in carrying out their duties. This principle was arguably violated in this case, given the significant public safety risks and potential legal implications associated with deploying automated lethal systems.

Furthermore, this situation could adversely affect the reputation of IT professionals as a whole. Upholding the integrity of the profession and avoiding actions that could bring disrepute are central to the duty of profession principles outlined in the BCS Code.

References:

ACM (n.d.) *The code affirms an obligation of computing professionals to use their skills for the benefit of society.* Code of Ethics. https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics [Accessed: 27 October 2024].

BCS (n.d.) BCS Code of conduct. https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct [Accessed: 27 October 2024].