

**School of Electrical Engineering & Computing**  
**University of Newcastle**  
**COMP1010 –Computing Fundamentals**

Workshop Week 10

## Task 1

### Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe an organization should be able to escape criminal liability for the acts of its employees if it has acted as a responsible corporate citizen, making strong efforts to prevent and detect misconduct in the workplace? Why or why not?

Your answers will vary, but you should consider the following questions in making their decision:

- What was the corporation doing to prevent and detect misconduct in the workplace?
  - How egregious were the acts of its employees?
  - How did the organization respond once it detected misconduct by the employees?
  - Were the employees involved disciplined?
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2. It is a common practice for managers to hold people accountable to meet “stretch” goals, quotas, and budgets. How can this be done in a way that does not encourage unethical behavior on the part of employees?
  3. Describe a hypothetical situation in which the action you would take is not legal, but it is ethical. Describe a hypothetical situation where the action you would take is legal, but not ethical.
  4. Hypothesis: It is easier to establish an ethical work environment in a nonprofit organization than in a for-profit organization. Provide three facts or opinions that support this hypothesis. Provide three facts or opinions that refute the hypothesis.
  5. It can be difficult for a large organization to act ethically consistently across all facets of its business. Identify a recent example of a usually ethical company acting in an unethical manner.

6. Should software piracy within the boundaries of third-world countries be tolerated to allow these countries an opportunity to move more quickly into the information age? Why or why not?

Reference: <http://portal.bsa.org/globalpiracy2010/>

7. How do you distinguish between misrepresentation and embellishment of one's professional accomplishments in order to win a contract to complete a major project? Provide an example of an embellishment that would not be considered misrepresentation.
8. Do laws provide a complete guide to ethical behavior? Can an activity be legal but not ethical?