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Part I My Framework

1) My Decision-Making Philosophy

My philosophy is based on the principles of logic, kindness and legality. My philosophy does have room for exceptions which allows for someone to disregard some of the principles based on the situation. When presented with any situation first I would consider if it is logical. Does this make sense or lead to the betterment of a person or entity? Does it harm anyone? If no harm is made and it leads to the betterment of an entity, then it should be allowed. We must also consider kindness. When it comes to doing an action we also consider how it makes other people feel directly. If I decide to confront someone over a simple misunderstanding that caused me inconvenience, but it would hurt someone's feelings then the action should not be done. Being wronged in a simple non-damaging way should not cause an 'overreaction' in which we seek to belittle, shame, or cause grief to someone for an inconvenience that can be overlooked. Finally, I also consider legality. Much like Rule Utilitarianism, any rules in place should be followed and not broken. The only exception is in extreme cases in which society fails the people and rules that break basic human laws are created. Other than that rules and laws should always be followed.

2) My Ethical Procedure

1. The first step is to identify the ethical issue.
2. The second step is to identify the parties involved.
3. The third step is to identify if the issue is worth pursuing based on kindness. Is the issue worth pursuing only for the good of you?
4. If the issue passes step three, then I look at the logical side and does it make sense in being an issue that everyone should look to for guidance. Much like court cases provide precedent to future similar court cases, an ethical issue can influence other future similar ethical issues. For instance, what laws exist that currently shape how we should view the issue. If any laws exist that dictate how this issue should be handled, then we should adhere to them.

Part II Code of Ethics

My Preamble

I am a sophomore at DePaul University studying computer science and have had studied computer science since elementary school. I self-taught myself HTML in 8th grade and eventually took classes in High School. I took 4 Computer Science classes and then a handful of Philosophy classes in college, including Logic and Nicomachean Ethics. Due to my major and my upbringing by being surrounded by a tech aware dad and older brother I have a huge liking to anything tech related. Be it news, software, or hardware my curiosity is always peaked at hearing new product or issues. My previous experience with philosophy, and even considering being a philosophy major at some point, I find the rise of tech interesting in the manner new ethical issues arise due to it.

1. *Principle 1:* I will not use a VPN to circumvent the legal eye of the government.

Kant's 1st and 2nd Formulations (Kant, 2017; Birsch, 2014)

To prove my principle ethical, I will use Kant's first formulation. The first formulation states that this principle should become a universal maxim. Not using a VPN to do illegal activities may be bad for me since viewing a movie or content not available in my country is illegal in a small scale and can get me in trouble but it is also a good thing because people with bad intention like terrorists or dangerous criminals can also be found more easily.

For Kant's 2nd formulation, the act is found to be unethical because in addition to simply finding criminals with bad intentions this will all lead to an end which has a greater good. Locating criminals who deal arms, drugs, or people is more important than me watching a movie that isn't available in my country. If everyone does not use a VPN, then a safer society can be achieved.

2. *Principle 2:* I will not torrent and share illegal files including games or movies.

Social Contract (Hobbes, 2017; Locke, 2017; Rousseau, 2017; Lulis, 2014)

To prove my principle ethical, I will apply the social contract theory. There is a current social contract that most countries adhere to which is Copyright laws where a person's creation, registered with the government, cannot be distributed with others illegally.

3. *Principle 3:* I will not snoop, expose, or view content online that a person has not decided to share publicly. (i.e. hidden files on dropbox or social media)

Moral Rights (Birsch, 2014)

To prove my principle ethical, I will apply the Moral Rights theory. The Moral Rights Theory states that people have a right to their work through attribution, the right to be anonymous, and the integrity of their work. Viewing content that a person has not decided to share is in violation of this moral right.

4. *Principle 4:* I will not mod my video game to gain an advantage over my competitors.

Rule Utilitarian (Mill, 2017; Lulis, 2014)

To prove my principle ethical, I will use Rule Utilitarian to show that when playing a video game, users agree to terms and conditions usually including fair play clauses that prohibit enhancing mods to gain an unfair advantage over their opponents.

5. *Principle 5:* I will not enable adblocker when watching YouTube videos.

Act Utilitarian (Bentham, 2017; Lulis, 2014)

To prove my principle ethical, I will use Act Utilitarian. Act Utilitarian states that the greatest good should always prevail. Enabling adblocker on a YouTube video will save me the time and inconvenience a 15 to 30 second ad causes me but it will negatively affect financially the YouTube video creator and also affect how they live their life due to this loss.

6. *Principle 6:* I will not shame a person online for their differing views.

Virtue Ethics (Aristotle, 2017; Birsch, 2014)

To prove my principle ethical, I will use virtue ethics. Virtue Ethics is based on character and thought which when shaming a person for their different views causes grief and leaves me with a closed mind. Shaming a person for different opinions is only done to harm someone and has no good intentions.

7. *Principle 7*: I will not be careless when driving and avoid distractions on my phone.

To prove my principle ethical, I will use my own framework. My framework places attention in following the law and thus using my phone is illegal. As well, being on my phone does not give a sense of kindness in regard to the safety of others. Driving is a very focus intensive activity so using my phone is illogical since it shifts my focus away from the road which increases the chance of an accident and hurting other people.

The act is proved unethical based upon my own framework.

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