Peer Response 1:

Collaborative Discussion 1: Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct

In reply to Yuji Watanabe

Peer response

by Andrius Busilas - Monday, 3 February 2025, 4:23 PM

Hi Yuji,

Thank you for your initial post on the case study: malware. Your post provides a thorough analysis of the ethical breaches committed by Rogue Services, as evaluated against the ACM Code of Ethics and BCS Code of Conduct (ACM, N.D.; BCS, 2022). Building on Yuji's observations, it is essential to consider the wider ramifications of ethical accountability in the digital sphere, particularly when private companies operate with limited regulatory supervision.

Yuji correctly identifies infringements of ACM Principles 1.1, 1.2, and 2.8, as well as the BCS's emphasis on public interest prioritization (ACM, N.D.; BCS, 2022). However, a more in-depth examination reveals that Rogue's disregard for ethical obligations reflects a corporate culture that is obsessed with profit maximization at the cost of societal welfare. Their "no matter what" promise, while attractive from a marketing perspective, demonstrates a concerning lack of professional integrity and responsibility—fundamental aspects of both ACM and BCS ethical frameworks (ACM, N.D.; BCS, 2022).

Moreover, reactions to Rogue Services' activities present significant ethical dilemmas. The orchestrated cyberattack against Rogue, although arguably justified in its goal of interrupting harmful operations, violates ethical standards concerning unauthorized access (ACM Principle 2.8) and harm minimization (Principle 1.2). This scenario underscores an ethical conundrum: can unethical actions be morally acceptable if they prevent greater harm? While the attack curtailed malicious activities, it also

jeopardized the data and operations of innocent clients, challenging the concept of proportionality in ethical decision-making.

Yuji's contemplation on the influence of capitalism and societal inequality adds a thought-provoking dimension. In an increasingly digitized world, the actions of computing professionals extend beyond technical outcomes; they mould public confidence in the technology. Adhering to ethical standards is not just a professional duty but also a societal necessity, bolstering the credibility of the IT industry and protecting the public interest.

References

ACM (N.D.) Case study: Abusive Workplace Behavior. Association for Computing Machinery. Available at: https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics/case-studies/abusive-workplace-behavior [Accessed: 02 February 2025].

BCS (2022) Code of Conduct for BCS Members. BCS. Available from: https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf [Accessed: 02 February 2025].