**Case: Automated Active Response Weaponry**

https://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/using-the-code/case-automated-active-response-weaponry/

In analyzing the case of Q Industries and their development of Automated Active Response Weaponry, we can examine it through the lenses of three ethical frameworks: Kantianism/Deontology, Virtue Ethics, and Utilitarianism.

From a Kantian perspective, the actions of Q Industries would likely be considered unethical. Kantian ethics emphasize the importance of treating individuals as ends in themselves, rather than merely as means to an end. Q's development of weaponry designed to harm individuals without due process, especially lethal responses, could be seen as treating individuals as mere instruments for achieving security or profit. Furthermore, Kantian ethics emphasize the importance of universalizability, meaning that an action is only morally permissible if it can be consistently applied as a universal law. Q's development of lethal autonomous weapons could not be consistently applied if everyone were to adopt such technology, as it would lead to widespread harm and violation of human rights. Therefore, Kantianism would likely suggest that the situation is unethical due to the violation of moral principles regarding the treatment of individuals and the lack of universalizability of Q's actions.

From the perspective of Virtue Ethics, the focus would be on the character of the individuals involved, particularly the leaders and engineers at Q Industries. Virtue ethics emphasize the development of moral character and the cultivation of virtues such as honesty, integrity, and compassion. In this case, the engineers who resigned in protest demonstrated virtues such as integrity and concern for the well-being of others by refusing to participate in the development of lethal autonomous weapons. Conversely, the leaders of Q Industries showed a lack of virtue by prioritizing profit and security over ethical considerations and the public good. Therefore, Virtue Ethics would likely suggest that the engineers' actions are ethical, while the actions of Q's leadership are not.

Utilitarianism, on the other hand, evaluates actions based on their consequences and the overall utility or happiness they produce. From a Utilitarian perspective, the ethicality of Q Industries' actions would depend on whether they ultimately lead to the greatest happiness or well-being for the greatest number of people. While the development of automated response weaponry may increase security for some individuals, it also poses significant risks and potential harm to innocent civilians, violating their rights and causing suffering. Additionally, the use of lethal autonomous weapons raises the risk of escalation and unintended consequences, potentially leading to greater harm in the long run. Therefore, Utilitarianism would likely suggest that the situation is unethical due to the potential for negative consequences outweighing any potential benefits.

In conclusion, each of the ethical frameworks provides valuable insights into the case of Q Industries and their development of Automated Active Response Weaponry. Kantianism highlights the importance of respecting individuals' rights and the principle of universalizability, Virtue Ethics emphasizes the importance of moral character and integrity, and Utilitarianism focuses on maximizing overall well-being. While each framework may lead to slightly different conclusions, they all suggest that Q Industries' actions are unethical due to the violation of ethical principles and the potential for harm to outweigh any potential benefits.

As for which ethical frameworks appeal to me most and least, I find Virtue Ethics particularly appealing because it emphasizes the importance of cultivating moral character and integrity, which are qualities I value highly. Kantianism also resonates with me to some extent because of its emphasis on treating individuals with dignity and respect. On the other hand, while Utilitarianism provides a useful framework for evaluating consequences, I find it less appealing because it can sometimes prioritize outcomes over principles and individual rights, which I believe are important considerations in ethical decision-making.