

COSC1147 Professional Computing Practice and COSC2615 Advanced Professional Development

Assignment 1, Semester 1, 2020

This assignment is worth 15% of your final mark and is an individual essay to be uploaded in Canvas on or before **Monday March 30, 2020.**

Overview

This assignment requires you to write an essay on one of the five topics shown in the following **Tasks** section. You will need to write this essay in report form, a template for which is available in Canvas, as though you were presenting this to your supervisor at work who has asked you to investigate this task, on his behalf, in relation to all computing employees. The report is to consist of 1500 to 2000 words which include appropriate references to support your claims.

Tasks

Choose one of the following five topics:

1. The Australian Privacy Act (1988) shares many common requirements with the European Union's (EU's) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), but it doesn't go far enough to protect the data privacy of Australian citizens. Discuss the notable differences between the two and what improvements could be made to the Australian Privacy Act (1988) and why you think these would be beneficial.
2. The Australian Computer Society's Code of Professional Conduct states that its list of requirements as they pertain to the six values of the ethical code "is not exhaustive and should not be read as a complete definition of acceptable professional conduct in all practical situations". Discuss what other requirements could be added and whether or not you consider they should be added.
3. De George's (1999, 2010) proposed model to determine when to blow the whistle was developed for engineers and is only applicable to non-government cases. Discuss how you would modify De George's model to make it more applicable to the IT industry and across government cases.
4. Moor (2007) argues that cybertechnology is "logically malleable" and therefore can be used and misused in an unlimited number of ways. It is for this reason that we need to have an independent field of applied ethics to guide the new choices enabled by cybertechnology where "policy vacuums" exist. Discuss.
5. The ethical framework developed by Rainer, Prince, and Cegielski (2014) is a more robust framework than Moor's (2004) "Just-consequentialism" framework because it combines the utilitarian approach, the rights approach, the fairness approach, and the common good approach, as opposed to just utilitarian and deontological theories. Discuss.

Essay Form

Using the “A1 - Essay and One Argument Template.docx” document, write an essay containing 1,500 – 2,000 words on the topic of your choice. The document contains the following 5 sections:

1. Introduction. Include your thesis statement here.
2. Essay body. Each paragraph in your essay body must pertain to one argument. Do not split one argument over multiple paragraphs or include more than 3 arguments in a single paragraph. Start each paragraph with your topic sentence.
3. Conclusion. Summarise the main points of your essay.
4. References. Use only IEEE style for your referencing which should consist of at least 6 journals or books. You may include extra website references as long as appropriate details are given. RMIT provides guidance here: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/library/study/referencing>
5. RMIT provides guidance on essay writing here: <https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/content/essays>. The information contained on this page (especially as it pertains to essay writing) has been incorporated into the rubric which will be used to mark your essay, so it's important that you consult it.

Marking Guide

Introduction: 4 %

Essay body: 6 %

Conclusion: 3 %

References: 1 %

Writing style: 1 %

Total ____ 15 %