Term Project part 3 - Utilitarian Analysis

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When it comes to a Utilitarian’s point of view, the options will need to be analyzed first to choose the right decision. In this paper, we will be looking at three plausible options. The following situations will be further analyzed from a utilitarian’s point of view:

* Snowden keeping quiet about the US government and NSA’s spying operation for the sake of personal gain.
* Snowden exposing the US government and NSA’s spying operation for the sake of making the government and NSA look bad.
* Snowden letting the US government and NSA continue for more leverage for exposing them.

For this analysis, I will be using a 1 to 10 scale to indicate the levels of angry to happy.

# Snowden keeping quiet about the US government and NSA’s spying operation for the sake of personal gain.

## In this scenario, the people who can or will gain/loss would be:

* The government & NSA
* Edward Snowden
* All people around the world.

For this scenario, the following chart indicates the levels of angry-to-happiness for those who are involved:

Stake holder Angry-to happiness level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The government and NSA | 7 |
| Edward Snowden | 10 |
| The people around the world | 1 |

The government and the NSA would be happy in this scenario because their operation can continue and keep doing what their intentions are; however, they may not like the fact that Snowden also knows about this spying operation. When it comes to Edward Snowden, Snowden would be happy as well in this scenario because he would be able to stay in America and as benefit off the spying operation.

However, for the public, they would not be happy because their privacy and potentially information can/will be compromised.

Overall, this scenario would not be for the best according to utilitarianism because most of the stakeholders involved (the public all around the world) would not benefit from this situation. Only Snowden, the US government, and NSA would benefit.

# Snowden exposing the US government and NSA’s spying operation for the sake of making the government and NSA look bad.

## In this scenario, the people who can or will gain/loss would be:

* The government & NSA
* Edward Snowden
* All people around the world.

In this situation, the following chart will indicate the levels of angry-to-happiness for those who are involved:

Stake holder Angry-to happiness level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The government and NSA | 1 |
| Edward Snowden | 10 |
| The people around the world | 5 |

The government and NSA will not be happy and will be under heavy stress due to their operation being exposed to the public. This is because their spying operation is not only illegal but invades many people around the world’s privacy. On the other hand, Snowden will be happy in this situation because if his intentions were to make the government and NSA look bad, he will achieve this intention (making the government and NSA look bad).

When it comes to the public, they will not be happy about the fact that the government and NSA are secretly invading the privacy of all people; but, because they would now know what is going on, there will hopefully be a change and have the spying operation be taken down.

Overall, this scenario would be one of the best options to go with; this is because from a utilitarianism perspective, the majority will benefit from this situation by gaining back their privacy.

# Snowden letting the US government and NSA continue for more leverage for exposing them.

## In this scenario, the people who can or will gain/loss would be:

* The government & NSA
* Edward Snowden
* All people around the world.

In this situation, the following chart will indicate the levels of angry-to-happiness for those who are involved:

Stake holder Angry-to happiness level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The government and NSA | 1 |
| Edward Snowden | 10 |
| The people around the world | 3 |

The government and NSA will not be happy in this situation. Similarly, to the previous one as mentioned, they would both be exposed and defamed by Snowden and the public.

When it comes to Snowden, he would benefit greatly because he is whistle blowing but instead of doing it right away, he will whistle blow once he has more leverage to make sure he can defame the government and NSA.

On the other hand, the public would not be so happy about this. This is because they may argue that the whistle blow could have been done sooner to avoid any potential privacy invasion as soon as possible.

Overall, this scenario may not be the most ideal because the public, government, and NSA would not be so happy. However, Snowden would be happy because he would successfully whistle blow and defame the government and NSA.

In conclusion, going with the 2nd scenario (Snowden exposing the US government and NSA’s spying operation for the sake of making the government and NSA look bad.) would be the best option to go with because the majority (the public and Snowden) would be happy.