Cosc244 Ethics Assignment

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1. Employees have a duty to their employers to look out for their interests, give valid advice and keep information they receive from the employer confidential. Section 5 of the supplement to the IITP code of ethics lists these duties as part of being an ethical employee. This section also states that employees need to be wary of any conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises as the review company is being paid by the design company to return a healthy product report they have a vested interest in saying that the product is bug free although they would never be able to ensure that there were no bugs. Although it is in the employers interests to claim that its bug free it is against the interests of the consumers and the general population to claim this. The ethical approach to this would be to disclose the conflict of interest to the clients so that they are aware of it and know that the product is not truly unhackable even though this might lessen the value of the company's product. Integrity requires being truthful and trustworthy when interacting with and working for the employer and not misrepresenting your abilities or the product that you create. In order to maintain integrity it is your duty to inform the employer that the product is not bug free but only more secure after testing. If they try to advertise it as so then inform them that there could be risks involved with making a false claim like that as the program could have an unknown vulnerability that could be exploited and people could press legal action if they find out the product doesn't perform as advertised and they experience damages from being hacked.

2. When serving a client an employee must look out for their interests, give them advice to the best of your knowledge and keep any information that they disclose to you confidential. IITP code of ethics Section 5 outlines these duties. It is in the interest of the client to be informed that no product can truly be bug free as it is impossible to test every scenario especially when a large user base is involved. This is the tenet of Informed Consent. The code also requires that any conflict of interest, be disclosed to the clients so that they may be properly informed when dealing with you. This means they should be told that companies are paying for a good review that they can put out to the public and so may oversell the benefits of being reviewed by saying it is unhackable rather than just more secure. IITP section 5 expects that members do not exaggerate, or omit information about what they are offering when promoting their services or directly dealing with a client so the claim should only be that it is more secure. This section also expects that you don't attempt to offer a client a service if it requires working any condition that compromises the ability to satisfy the client. As it is impossible to create a condition where every single bug is being tested, offering such a service where they are told that every security issue will be solved is unethical.

3. It is important to inform the general public of these practices where nothing can truly be bug free. The third tenet of the IITP code of ethics is Community-focus, which outlines the responsibility for a professional to put the welfare and rights of the community before their profession or their private interests. The ethical duty to the people is to let them know what these reviews truly mean and to call out anyone who tries to oversell them. An example of ethical behavior was shown by the InfoWorld security columnist Roger A. Grimes as he explained what these reviews really mean and how companies that claim to have bug free code are lying or omitting the full details. Disclosing the true nature of these reviews is a duty owed to the community and is inline with the IITP code of ethics, especially the first 3 tenets. Good faith is upheld as the public is treated with dignity, as they deserve not to be misled. Integrity is upheld as is honours the trust of the community by telling them the truth about these products.

4. I could continue to work at the job but I would make sure to never present the code as bug free and contest the people in the company who did so. If I left the job then perhaps someone less ethical who is fine with falsely advertising their product would take my place. I would make sure to apply my skill in the profession to make the product as secure as possible in line with Section 4 of the code of ethics supplement. Upholding the tenets of Skill, Continuous Development and Competence would help to produce a product that, while not bug free, would be improved to a high standard. It would be difficult to get the employer to change their stance on how they report on the product but it would be worth trying. Remaining in the job would at least allow the opportunity for changing the situation whereas leaving would most likely mean the situation would stay the same.