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Job Fair Lab

I currently work for iFixit.com. As a company we adhere to the Software Engineering Code of Ethics, but it is not posted anywhere, and there is no way to anonymously post violations of the code. On top of all of that, we have no packet of paper when we start working that says we must follow a certain set of rules or what not. When I talked to LinkedIn at the job fair, they claimed to have ethics, but just to the level that they signed something when they were hired saying they would be ethical. Kyle Wiens, my boss, seems to have a different standard. He hires people like a married couple adopts a child. At almost of company party he speaks about how he trusts and loves the people he works with and how he views each of us as family instead of employees.

While I agree that iFixit is small and close, and feels very much like a family, I think this is a psychological ploy. By creating a close bond between employees, most would not want to hurt their new “family” members. Also, because the company has an outward appearance of strict environmental ethics, and Kyle has a very strict no bullshit policy, most employees act respectable because they do not want to a) anger Kyle (“dad” if you will) or b) don't want to embarrass or shame the company (“the family”).

So while I am alluding to the fact that iFixit is run by the mafia, and there is no defined ethical standard, we have yet to run into issues. I have a feeling once we get larger, we will probably have a lawyer tell us we need silly things like an NDA and for all employees to sign an ethics agreement, and when we do, Kyle will probably make us all sign the SE code. Until then, I guess iFixit will just keep flying by the seat of it's pants into the ethical unknown.