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Ethics Project

Part 1.

To act ethically, according to me, I believe that one must act in such a way as to not disadvantage others for personal gain as well as to act within the bounds of the law. We know that the law can be tricky, with the United States alone having an extensive resume of ridiculous laws that have changed and should be changed, however in general I believe that laws are in place as a universal guideline for how to act ethically. It is also entirely within the bounds of the law to put others down for personal gain. When I used to work in the restaurant industry, I was one of the youngest employees in the building since I had started when I was 16. To make good tips I worked hard and did things the right way so that I could afford to go do fun things on the weekends with my friends, but over time my older coworkers began to resent me because of that. They tried to knock me down a few pegs by talking to other servers or managers behind my back to make themselves look and feel better. I knew about it and for a while it did get to me, however I quickly learned that by focusing on myself rather than fretting the thoughts of others that my actions spoke for me. I carry those lessons with me daily by trying to be kind and help others, and I think that people should also carry that in their lives because it would make life a lot more pleasant.

Part 2.

CEO: Michael Dell

1. Michael Dell is the founder and CEO of Dell Technologies. He is currently the 23rd richest person in the world with a net worth of $50.1 billion. He started his company out of his dorm room at the University of Texas in 1983 as a pre-med student by selling upgrade kits for PCs. Over time, since he did not have the expenses that come with storefronts, he was able to win contracts from various vendors for his upgrade kits, and that snowballed into him becoming the youngest CEO of a Fortune 500 company in 1992 at age 27. Outside of his business history, Dell is a well-known philanthropist who donates billions of dollars through his Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.
2. Dell is a company that is well respected around the world for both the quality of its products as well as its ethical practices. It was honored 11 times as one of the world’s most ethical companies by Ethisphere, and has an extensive Ethics and Integrity page on their website that outlines their various codes of conduct and goals to evolve their ethical and privacy guidelines.
3. The future of Dell technologies lies in their business products rather than their consumer products. In an article about the topic from CNN, I found that Dell “imagines a future in which business are faster, smarter and better”. Although the future looks bright for Dell with the semi-recent acquistition of EMC (and henceforth software giant VMWare), the financial statements indicate mostly losses from 2022 to 2023. Their net income went down 56% over that fiscal year, which seems to be attributable to a 300% uptick in interest payments from the acquisition of EMC.
4. Outside of them trying to improve on their business products, I personally think of Dell products as reliable, high quality and reasonably priced. I have been building computers and fixing them since I was 14, and since then I have noticed that Dell products have always been more reliable, more easily repairable and have had better customer service than the other companies I bought products from. I personally think that the right to repair is going to be a central issue going forward, both from an environmental and inflation perspective. The idea of not being able to repair products that are designed to die after a few years is terrifying because of the ever declining state of our environment and our wallets with how many times we have to buy new tech, so its nice to see a company care about it.
5. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/05/tech/dell-vmware-post-spinoff-future/index.html>

<https://worldsmostethicalcompanies.com/>

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/blog/ethics-and-integrity-are-foundational-to-who-we-are/>

[https://www.dell.com/en-us/dt/corporate/about-us/who-we-are.htm#](https://www.dell.com/en-us/dt/corporate/about-us/who-we-are.htm)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Dell>

<https://investors.delltechnologies.com/static-files/b1ad67bb-5ad1-440c-9138-651bc8221889>

Part 3.

1. My company would be Trusted and Repairable Computers (TRC), and it would provide a wide array of desktop computers, laptops, tablets and phones that would be designed to be reliable and repairable by anyone.
2. My mission statement would be: The goal of TRC is to provide the people with trustworthy, reliable and repairable products in order to secure a more sustainable and equitable future for everyone.
3. I would promote a strong company culture that is centered around the employees. In order to create the products that I want to create I want to have passionate employees who see the same vision that I do, so I would want to provide them with everything they need or want in the workplace.
4. The internal controls that I would care most about would be Quality of employees and performance evaluation as I think they best match the mission statement that I have created.
5. Since my company was founded on the idea of having more repairable technology, my company would value its social responsibility by advocating for the right to repair, not just for consumer technology but for everything. The company could have a fund set in place to help those advocating for the right to repair convince lawmakers to make it a law.

Part 4.

Movie: The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley

1. The story of The Inventor revolved around Elizabeth Holmes and her company, Theranos. A major theme of the movie was about how Holmes was able to swindle major investors into dumping several hundred million dollars into her company, without fully doing their due diligence. Throughout the movie and most particularly in the beginning of it, the documentary makes several comparisons between Holmes and famous inventors such as Steve Jobs and Thomas Edison. They mentioned that she had such an air around her and did such a good job at covering the shortcomings of her products that massively wealthy investors and powerful people trusted her enough to not look into her product outside of demos or even Theranos’s balance sheets. Those people lost a lot of credibility and money by trusting her as the weight of the shortcomings of her products as well as the lies they told to cover it up eventually collapsed on her and she was indicted for fraud.
2. This documentary definitely changed the way that I look at new products, companies and ideas. It taught me to be a bit more skeptical instead of optimistic about these things so that I don’t get caught in a trap like Theranos’ investors did. Now, when I look to invest some money in a company I know that I should really do my full due diligence in a company by looking into their financial statements and if they are hiding or lying about any information I should steer clear. I can ensure that my money goes to a good place by looking at a company’s history, its yearly financial statements especially their liabilities and whether or not they make enough revenue to pay their creditors, and who is on their board of directors.
3. This movie directly relates to the business environment in 2023 as what Elizabeth Holmes did happened again with Sam Bankman-Fried with FTX. Just this past winter the largest crypto exchange, FTX, collapsed because they were caught for fraud by illegally moving millions of funds to another company, Alameda research, without disclosing that on their financial statements. People dumped their money into crypto currencies on the platform without doing their due diligence on the company and lost billions after what was essentially a bank-run.