

Research Methods and Professional Practice January 2022

[Home](#) / / [My courses](#) / / [RMPP_PCOM7E January 2022](#) / / [Unit 1](#) / / [Collaborative Learning Discussion 1](#) /
/ [Summary Post](#) /

« [Collaborative Learning Discussion 1](#)



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Summary Post

4 secs ago

The case study discussed was about a company knowingly hosting malicious services and evading legal prosecution by deliberately choosing a country with weak laws on cyber security. The case study was also about a consortium of companies and agencies, that used a worm to attack the company and to delete mostly data from unethical practices.

In the following discussion it was pointed out that moving to a country with a low level on laws and prosecution activities is not only the case for hosting providers, but also for malware operators.

All people discussing this case study agreed that the hosting company might conduct its business legally but not ethically. It was agreed that they have violated many points of the BSC's code of conduct.

The question whether the coalition operated ethically is however more controversé. A point was raised that the intend was good, so the overall action could be deemed ethically. It was however also pointed out, that there is reasonable doubt that the consortium correctly estimated and approached the loss of data of the legit companies hosted. It was also discussed whether the coalition was aware of all consequences before they started to attack and whether they were able to compensate for damages.

Overall, it can be stated that this case study is a very interesting case study to discuss ethics. To come to a verdict if the coalition has truly acted ethically, it would be necessary to investigate the details pointed out by my peers in more detail.

(BCS 2022)

References:

BCS Code of Conduct (2022) | BCS. Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct/>. [Accessed January 29, 2022]

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