

## Ethical Code for Cybersecurity

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Upon reading the article, *Companies Should Consider Cybersecurity a Matter of Ethics*, I was left a little perturbed and questioning about the companies I felt were supposedly “top notch.” Obviously, this article was mainly about the opinion of Malcolm Harkins which may or may not be 100% factual. Nonetheless, it still made me wonder about things. Are companies keeping us, the consumers, in mind when they are racing to develop the next “big thing”?

From my own experience, I’ve seen companies like Apple and Windows try to push out the next revolutionary piece of technology, only to release it unfinished. I know programming isn’t perfect and it takes multiple users to help identify bugs they’ve missed, but some of the patches (especially in the early days of the iPhones and Windows) were fairly substantial. As a gamer, I’ve seen game developers do the same thing. They’ll rush to release a game, only to find out it still has major flaws that us players must point out to them. Maybe if these big corporations/developers took more time to keep their consumers in mind (not just focusing on the money), they could avoid having to scramble so much when things don’t turn out the way they had *hoped*.

*Hoped*. That was something that stuck out at me in this article. It said these companies were just hoping for the best. They know they’ll get hit or hacked eventually and they just include that as collateral damage. I’m not sure if that’s true but if that’s anyone’s ideology, that’s sad. The article is right, that is essentially giving up before you even start. Yes, there are huge advancements in technology happening every year, every day even. And with that, there will always be someone out there looking for ways to make it fail or exploit its weaknesses. As a developer, I believe they should keep that in mind and structure their content so that it is more impervious to such things. We can learn about technology, but we can also learn about hacking. How it works, what it targets, how to stop it. Take that and continue building on it so that you can issue the statement that you do in fact care about your consumer’s security and privacy.

That takes me into the main question for this assignment. What points do I believe should be included in an ethical code for cybersecurity? Simple. Consumer privacy and security, a pledge to make security and privacy a priority, a pledge for integrity, and a pledge for constant safe and secure innovation. As a consumer, I want to trust that my Windows computer (or whatever device someone may use) is made to keep my personal information safe and secure. I want to know that what I save on my devices will remain secure and private from any unwanted eyes. I want to believe that this is important to people like Microsoft, Apple, etc. I want to know that these people are striving to continue progressing their security to keep it up to date with the latest and greatest technological advancements. I don’t want to have to worry

about losing any valuable documents to some hacker next door because of an error in coding in my laptop's security system.

I am all for technological advancements. I say go for it in that department. However, I am aware of such things and how they can be exploited. And if I, a novice in computer science, can see these things, what could someone who knew how to hack do? If my home is a "smart" home, that means most of it is controlled from one device. Imagine what a hacker could do to that. You come home, and your dishwasher has flooded the whole house with soapy water. As a more extreme measure, look at self-driving cars. Could you imagine what would happen if someone hacked into that system and killed a bunch of innocent people? That'd be awful! So yes, technological advancements are great, but they need to not go faster than the ability to make them as safe and secure as possible. The finish line to that race doesn't matter if you don't make it there in one piece.