uluilu Networking
CISCO Academy

Lab - Create Your Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

Objectives

Part 1: Research Approaches to Ethical Decision Making

Part 2: Research Code of Ethics

Part 3: Develop Your Own Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

Background / Scenario

When confronted with an ethical dilemma, what do you consider when making a decision?

Suppose you find a new USB 3.0 flash drive in the computer lab, what would you do? A student in your class says they found a site on the internet that has all the class exams and quizzes with answers, what would you do?

Working in Cybersecurity is not always about stopping cyber-attacks. As a Cybersecurity specialist, your organization may entrust you with some of the most sensitive data. As a result, you will be confronted with challenging ethical dilemmas, which may not have an easy or clear answer. For example, when researching a security breach, are the personal devices of employees and their personal content included?

The focus of this lab is to research approaches or perspectives for ethical decision making. Next, you will research the code of ethics and finally you will create your own personal code of ethical conduct.

Required Resources

- PC or mobile device with Internet access

Instructions

Part 1: Research Approaches to Ethical Decision Making

There are several approaches or perspectives on Ethical Decision Making, including Utilitarian ethics, the Rights approach and the Common Good approach. Other ethical decision models include the Fairness or Justice approach as well as the Virtue approach.

In this part, you will research each ethical decision model or framework and then formulate the underlying principle from that approach.

Use an internet browser to research approaches to ethical decision making.

TASK 1

Step 1: Research Utilitarian ethics

Define the underlying principle for the Utilitarian Ethics approach.

ANSWER

This is based on the guiding principle that the consequence of an action is the most important factor in determining if the action is moral or not. For example, an action that maximizes the greatest good for the greatest amount of people is an ethical choice.

Step 2: Research the Rights approach to ethical decision making.

Define the underlying principle for the Rights approach to ethical decision making.

ANSWER

The rights approach is guided by the principle which states that an individual has the right to make their own choices, which cannot be violated by another person's decision. This decision must respect and consider the fundamental rights of the individual. These fundamental rights include the right to truth, privacy, safety and for society to apply laws fairly to all members of society.

Step 3: Research the Common Good approach to ethical decision making.

Define the underlying principle for the Common Good approach to ethical decision making.

ANSWER

The common good approach proposes that ethical actions are those that benefit the entire community. It challenges individuals to recognize and pursue the values and goals shared with other members of a community.

Step 4: Research the Fairness or Justice approach to ethical decision making.

Define the underlying principle for the Fairness or Justice approach to ethical decision making.

ANSWER

The fairness or justice approach proposes that ethical actions treat everyone equally. If unequal treatment is necessary, it should be based on fair and just reasons. This approach focuses on fairness, equality, and impartial rules for all.

TASK 2

Part 2: Research Code of Ethics

Most organizations develop their own code of ethics. Developed by management, this document is based on values and principles to promote the company business with honesty and integrity.

In this part, you will research computer code of ethics and cybersecurity code of ethics.

Use an internet browser to research code of ethics.

Based on your research, create a list of at least ten items. The list should be sequential from most important to least important.

ANSWER

List of Code of Ethics:

The commandments of computer ethics are as follows:

- Do not use the computer to harm other people's data.
- Do not use a computer to cause interference in other people's work.
- Do not spy on another person's personal data.
- Do not use technology to steal personal information.
- Do not spread misinformation using computer technology.
- Do not use the software unless you pay for this software.
- Do not use someone else's computer resources unless he authorized to use them.
- It is wrong to claim ownership of a work that is the output of someone else's intellect.
- Before developing software, think about the social impact it can of that software.
- While computers for communication, always respectful with fellow members.

Cybersecurity code of ethics

- Professionals must take responsibility for their actions and ensure user activities are properly logged.
- Open communication and transparency are essential to build trust and collaboration.
- Sensitive information must be kept confidential to prevent unauthorized access and protect privacy.
- Data should remain accurate and unchanged unless authorized.
- Systems and resources must be available to authorized users when needed.
- Follow all relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards to stay compliant.
  Keep learning continuously

Part 3: Develop Your Own Personal Code of Ethical Conduct

A code of conduct provides guidelines for acceptable as well as unacceptable specific behaviors.

Based on your research, develop a list of your own personal code of ethical conduct.

Create a code of ethics list of at least ten items. The list should be sequential from most important to least important.

ANSWER

List of Code of Ethics:

1. **Respect Privacy**
   Protect personal information and respect the privacy of others when using computers and networks.

2. **Avoid Illegal Activities**
   Do not use computers for illegal actions such as hacking, fraud, identity theft, or spreading malware.

3. **Respect Intellectual Property**
   Avoid plagiarism, copyright infringement, and unauthorized use or distribution of software and digital content.

4. **Do No Harm**
   Refrain from actions that could cause harm to individuals, organizations, or society through the use of technology.

5. **Follow Laws and Policies**
   Adhere to all relevant laws, regulations, and organizational policies related to computer and cybersecurity use.

6. **Take Responsibility**
   Be accountable for your actions and decisions in cybersecurity, including responsibly reporting security breaches or system vulnerabilities.

7. **Ensure Honesty and Accuracy**
   Provide truthful and accurate information when using or sharing data through computer systems.

8. **Practice Fairness and Impartiality**
   Treat all individuals and organizations fairly, without discrimination or bias, in all cybersecurity-related activities.

9. **Consider Social Impact**
   Reflect on the wider social and ethical effects of technology, and act in ways that contribute to the well-being of society.

10. **Maintain Competence**
    Stay informed about the latest cybersecurity threats, tools, and best practices to ensure continuous improvement and responsible behavior.

TASK 4

Reflection Questions

1. **Is there a Cyber Security incident you remember where the company acted ethically, or the company acted un-ethically? Explain.**

   ANSWER

   Ethical:

   In 2021, it was discovered that the Pegasus spyware, developed by NSO Group, was being used to target journalists, activists, and government officials through a zero-click vulnerability in Apple devices. Once Apple became aware of this, they acted ethically by quickly investigating the issue and releasing a security update to patch the vulnerability.

   Additionally, Apple took a bold ethical stand by filing a lawsuit against NSO Group, holding them accountable for the misuse of their spyware. They also notified affected users, even in countries where doing so might be sensitive. This shows Apple's commitment to user privacy, transparency, and protecting human rights in the digital space.

   Unethical:

   In October 2016, Uber experienced a data breach that impacted 57 million users and drivers globally. The breach exposed names, email addresses, and mobile phone numbers of users. Additionally, the data of 600,000 US drivers, including their driver's license numbers, was compromised. Instead of disclosing the breach, Uber paid the hackers $100,000 to delete the stolen data and keep the incident quiet. This was highly unethical because it violated user trust and legal requirements to disclose breaches.

2. **What is a weakness or drawback to Utilitarian Ethics?**

   ANSWER

   A key weakness of Utilitarian Ethics is that it can **justify harming a minority if it benefits the majority**. This means actions that are unfair or violate individual rights might be seen as acceptable if they produce the greatest overall happiness. Additionally, it can be difficult to accurately predict all consequences or measure happiness, making decision-making complex and sometimes unfair.

3. **Based on your list of code of ethics, which is the most challenging item in your list to implement?**

   ANSWER

   'Consider Social Impact' is the most challenging item because there are different cultural norms and values according to the society we live and deciding what is wrong and right can be difficult if we are not part of the society. The social impact of technology is often broad, complex, and sometimes unpredictable. So, considering what is acceptable and what is ethical seems challenging because one thing that is unacceptable in one society can be acceptable in another part of society. It requires professionals to think beyond technical solutions and consider ethical, cultural, and societal dimensions, which can be difficult to evaluate clearly.