The Professional Ethics of Publishing Security Vulnerabilities script

Hello, my name is Landon Moon, and I will be going over a scenario that requires the use of professional ethics to help determine the correct choice to make. Are there any questions before we begin?

There have been multiple times throughout history when an issue is found within a system. If this issue becomes public knowledge, it might cause damage to the system or a panic for those affected. Today I’ll go over one scenario where a security vulnerability was found in a transit fare system by some students, but the transit authority got a judge to ban the students’ paper. These students must now decide what action is the most ethical to take by considering all the impacts and responsibilities of their actions.

In this scenario, there are primary and secondary stakeholders that will be impacted by the student’s decisions. The primary stakeholders are the students and the transit authority because they are the most severely impacted. If the students decide to go against the judge’s order, then the students have the possibility of being expelled from MIT, getting a worse grade in their class, and getting sued for their actions. The transit authority is in control of the transit system, so if the information about the security vulnerability is released to the public, the fare system might make less money from fares. This loss in revenue can cause people to be laid off, or the system might go into disrepair. The secondary stakeholders in this situation would be MIT and the legal system. MIT might be held accountable if the students present their paper for their school project. Additionally, the legal system will be expected to keep order between all the parties. If the transit authority sues the students or MIT, the legal system will have to decide on whether the transit authority should receive compensation and how much. No matter what decision the students make, it will impact themselves and others.

Both the students and the transit authority have different considerations they need to consider when they decide what actions to take. The students want to present their paper to get a good grade on their paper. They have an ethical responsibility to be honest about the contents of their paper. The students also have a professional responsibility to not cause undue harm to the transit system by releasing their paper. The transit authority has a responsibility to the people who use the transit system. The transit authorities also have a professional responsibility to the students to not harm them any more than necessary. Each group has responsibilities to consider when deciding what actions, they should take.

In the scenario, it is said that the transit authority asked for a five-month ban of the student’s paper, but the judge dismissed the case after a week. By dismissing the case, the judge has allowed the students to present their paper and allowed the public to know how to take advantage of the fare system. The students can now present their paper and be professionally irresponsible towards the transit system. Instead of hurting the transit system, the students should look for an avenue that prevents all parties from being hurt due to their decision. One example of this would be to explain the situation to their professor and the judge. This hopefully would result in the professor understanding the situation and allowing the students to release their paper later. Explaining the situation to the judge would allow the judge to issue a temporary ban of the release of the paper. This gives security to the transit authorities while they fix the vulnerability. This way both the students don’t have to worry about their grades, and the transit system isn’t harmed by the preemptive release of the information.

Overall, these students can choose the correct action to take by considering the impacts and responsibilities of their scenario. Both simple actions of releasing the paper or not releasing the paper have negative impacts on one or more groups. While the students are primarily responsible for getting a good grade and following the law, the students also have a professional responsibility to themselves, to be honest, and true but also a professional responsibility to not harm the transit system any more than necessary. By being transparent and honest with their professor, legal system, and the transit authority, they can all come to an agreement that is favorable to everyone.

Are there any questions about how the students should decide what action to take?

Thank you for listening and have a good day.

**CSE - 4314**

**Professional Practices**

**Academic Integrity**

**In order for your Assignment/Homework/Project to be accepted you must read the following, sign this form and attach it to your papers (as the last page of your assignment).**

**Academic Integrity:**Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Student Signature: Landon Moon

Student Id Number: 1001906270

Note: Must be read, signed and attached (stapled) as last page of homework or assignment. If it is a team assignment then all team members must read, sign and attach a single copy of the Academic Integrity form to the team’s paper as the last page. If not properly attached as last page a 2 point penalty will be assessed after grade assigned.