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In the given scenario where I am able to access visible files in a classmate's directory, I believe it is still incorrect to look at the files even if I don't do anything with that information. In the Ethics modules given during the second lecture, we talked about the idea of harmless wrongs, and debated whether or not something can be wrong even if no apparent harm occurs. I believe that this is entirely possible, and that it is important especially in cs to maintain good security practices and demonstrate integrity as programmers.

For one, looking at another classmate's files is a violation of the expected privacy boundaries, and may lead to personal information that they would not want to share publicly being seen. In the ethics module, we looked at the thoughts of philosopher Derek Parfit, who argued that harms in life are not only subjective, but can also be objective. In particular, even if that classmate did not know that their files were accessed, the information seen on them can still affect the classmate's reputation. Parfit argues that changes in the way this classmate is viewed by those who saw their files is inherently important even if the classmate is unaware.

Moreover, working in technology entails that many secrets would be stored inside shared computers, such as important keys generated for development tools. If leaked, these keys can pose a major security risk to the company if they come into the hands of hackers with malicious intent. Services the company's software depends on can be queried repeatedly, or sensitive user information in databases can be leaked. In either case, it leads to users losing trust in the company's overall security and breaches of their privacy.

Ultimately, even if the files were just "seen" and not shared or discussed, it still poses a security risk. Important information should be kept private, and in cases when this is left public accidentally, programmers should have the integrity to respect the security of the software. Even if no major harm occurs, as Parfit argues, harmless wrongs can still have many consequences for the owner of the file and should be taken seriously.