



**GROUP 1**  
**CITE 008-IT41S4**

# **Social Issues and Professional Practice**

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# Scenario

Lisa is a software developer for a popular social media platform. She discovers that the platform's algorithms are collecting more user data than necessary and that this data is being sold to third parties without users' full understanding or consent. Lisa is conflicted about whether to bring this issue to light, knowing that doing so could lead to a significant backlash against the company and potentially compromise her career.

# Discussion Points:

1

Should Lisa  
prioritize user  
privacy over  
company loyalty  
and potential  
personal  
consequences?

2

What ethical  
considerations  
should guide  
her decision on  
whether to act?

3

How would you  
handle the  
situation if you  
were in Lisa's  
position?

# Answer

1

- Lisa's loyalty to the company might suggest keeping quiet, but loyalty should not override ethical obligations to protect users.
- The long-term reputation of the company could suffer more if the issue is exposed by external sources rather than addressed internally.

# Answer

2

- Lisa's choice should be influenced by values like honesty, integrity, and the effects on those involved. Specifically, the principle of "nonmaleficence," which means to avoid causing harm, is crucial here. If Lisa permits ongoing data misuse, she would be playing a part in potential harm to users.
- Autonomy is essential since users should have the authority to manage their own data and make knowledgeable choices regarding its use. Lisa should also take into account whistleblower protections and whether there are internal processes within the company for reporting unethical conduct.

# Answer

3

- A wise strategy would be to first explore all internal approach for reporting, like raising concerns with a supervisor or the company's ethics committee, in an effort to resolve the issue internally. Should these measures prove ineffective or inadequate, and if the company persists in unethical behavior, Lisa might think about external whistleblowing. In doing so, she should seek legal and professional guidance to safeguard against possible retaliation.