Ethics Essay

1. I chose the Theranos case study to focus on. If I was an engineer on that project, I would definitely be in a tough spot. I think that the author of that case study was, most likely, spot on with the argument that Elizabeth Holmes did probable want to create this great technology and advancement. But, caught in the crossfire of being honest with herself, and hoping that her invention works, she had to lie to herself and her investors. As an employee, it can be very hard to be honest about the work that you are doing, especially if there have been lots and lots of hours put in. Since Holmes was also threatening employees about being silent, it probably would have been very difficult and gutsy to go against her idea.

Furthering on that point, the engineers on the project did what they did because they were either scared to speak up, unsure about speaking up, and not gutsy enough to say anything along the lines of what was most likely going to happen. They did not feel confident in speaking up and not lying because of the depth of the lies that were going on.

2. An obvious violation of ethics on our senior design project comes in with the security of our system. If our security is not being supplied in the way that we are promising, that is a very big violation of ethics. Security is a big deal, especially when trusting other people with your security. A violation that may be grey is not using the most advanced motion activation technology. If we chose a cheaper route that is not the most effective in detecting motion, then we are not creating our product to the highest level of potential. Pairing with another student, Sami said that an obvious ethics violation is lying about what our security center is doing with their information. If we use the information that we receive from the system we install at a customer's home, then this is a big violation of ethics. A grey situation is not fixing bugs when they come up. If we don't keep our system up to date, the quality of our product goes down. All four of these scenarios seem to be ethics violations. Most likely, only the two obvious ones are actual ethics violation because they involve lying and manipulating our customers, which are security violations. Possibly the second grey violation could also be an ethics violation depending on what we are selling our system as. If its "long term" and we don't treat our system as long term, then this could be an ethics violation.