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Scenario #1 requires you to think about a few ethical questions. There are a lot of nuances and details that need to be explored in this scenario, but at a high level, the gist of the questions is: Are you responsible to help others when you can? Is it unethical to be silent when you speaking up can potentially help a lot of people, but there's a risk to it? Is code law? Is it ethical to circumvent technical barriers without people's awareness to potentially help them? We will now explore these questions in detail.

First of all, let's specify who's involved and what their rights and responsibilities are. We have InstaToonz, Inc. They have the intellectual property rights to the idea, the code, and the product they offer. Their responsibility is to adhere to the contract they issued with their customers. A few things that this contract includes are to deliver certain services to customers and to protect their privacy. We also have the customers. They have the right to their personal information, the right to be given the service promised by the service provider, and nothing else. They don't have much responsibility to the service provider as a role of a customer. Everyone in the world has the right to not have to use the service, and the responsibility to not steal the idea, the code of the service, and the customer's personal data. Everyone has the responsibility to not exploit bugs that can harm other people. The question when it comes to bug-related problems is, how do you determine what's a bug and what's a feature? Are you stepping on the illegal realms if the service provider "allows" you to do it because it's doable and no one ever says it's not allowed? Even if it's legal, is it ethical? And laws can be problematic too. Even if it's illegal, is it unethical? Should laws and ethics be mutually inclusive? That's outside the scope of this assignment though.

A few details that are important. Am I an employee of InstaToonz? If yes, then I'm more likely to report but through an internal method. If not, then do I know anyone in the company? The higher up the person is and the closer I am to that person, the more likely I will let them know so maybe they can report internally. How does InstaToonz deal with internal suggestions? How available I am to deal with potential lawsuits? What was the state of the lawsuit before this at the time InstaToonz dropped it? These are questions that I would consider because they would tell me how high the risk of InstaToonz suing and the potential burden is. For me personally, I would only proceed if that cost is not too high. Then I need to balance that cost with other aspects. Technology-wise, I would consider how likely it is that someone can figure out the bug? How likely is it that someone else already figured out bugs? How sure am I that that bug is real and it's not a feature? They will balance out with the cost mentioned earlier. This way of thinking is very practical, and I think a lot of people would go through the same process as me, especially an average person.

A really safe course of action is to report the bug anonymously if possible. I need to make sure the communication between me and the company is secure, and they are set up to receive the message before everyone else. I don't want an Eve or Mal knows about the bug before the company does. I know there is no bug bounty programs and the past history of how InstaToonz deals with these kinds of situations, I have no potential benefits of doxxing myself. Another course of action that I can take is to report the bug through an internal method. If this is possible, it is the best way. The risk of the company suing is me lower because this problem doesn't need to go public. But the risk of me getting fired is high because I'm directly involved in the situation. I will need to evaluate this based on my prior understanding of how the company deals with internal suggestions. If I cannot make suggestions

internally, then I will only proceed with reporting the bug publicly if I know I can deal with the risks of getting sued. I need to be financially stable and have available time. Otherwise, I will be pragmatic and not report the bug.

The Code of Ethics is very vital to the question whether I should circumvent the technological barriers if they are required to figure out the bugs, suppose the bug involves the encryption and copy-protection of the music shared by InstaToonz users. Even though it says that we should “honor privacy”, it also mentions other rules that apply more to our situation, as our intention is not to attack people’s privacy. To cite a few things, we should “access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good”. In this situation, the latter is true. We should “contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing”. Knowing everyone using InstaToonz are stakeholders in computing, we need to take the responsibility to protect them. We should “foster public awareness and understanding of computing, related technologies, and their consequences”. Taking the action outlined is to do exactly that. So, by the code of Ethics, we should try to find the bugs and report them regardless of whether the bug involves the encryption and copy-protection of the music shared by InstaToonz users.

So, I think even though the current rules of ethics would recommend me to find and report those bugs, I would also need to think more pragmatically and evaluate the risks of doing that. When it comes to ethics, there are a lot of gray areas such as those I outlined above. And we didn’t even consider the relativism of ethics that makes someone from a different culture to act entirely differently. In conclusion, there is really no right way. It depends on the person in the situation, their socio-economic background, their technological abilities, and the connection they have with the company. But one thing we know for sure, is that we should not wish to be the attacker having an intention to harm other people, or go against their wishes just for some selfish gains.