

The study chosen for this discussion forum was the *Automated Active Response Weaponry*, where a company's changing mission statement and scope of product application drives a group of engineers to act as whistleblowers for what they feel is a product application that serves to the detriment of society.

This case presents arguments on both sides. Freya aptly pointed out that there are measures for the protection of whistleblowers if their actions are deemed for the betterment of societal wellbeing, but these protections are not a guarantee and still carry inherent risks (Basey, 2022). Ultimately, while the company in question "Q" did violate the BCS and Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) code of conduct/ethics by ignoring "due regard for health, privacy, security and wellbeing of others and the environment (www.bcs.org, n.d.)" the whistleblowers also violated ACM and BCS policy by forgoing the rules and policies stipulated by their place of employment, by violating their NDA and government security classifications (LII / Legal Information Institute, 2020).

Finally, Dinko raises the question of how to address the ethics of product development that has a continued impact on the general public, and the ethics of their application. Should these tools be regulated and kept from being used on the public, especially where concerns of public safety may even include the governments who are interested in their development and application (Isic, 2022)?

References:

Basey, F. (2022) Discussion Forum post by Simon Miller, 3 February

Isic, D. (2022) Discussion Forum post by Simon Miller, 8 February

ACM Ethics. (2018). *Case: Automated Active Response Weaponry*. Available at: <https://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/using-the-code/case-automated-active-response-weaponry/> [Accessed 24 Jan. 2022].

www.bcs.org. (n.d.). *BCS Code of Conduct | BCS*. Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct/> [Accessed 24 Jan. 2022].

LII / Legal Information Institute. (2020). *18 U.S. Code § 798 - Disclosure of classified information*. Available at: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/798> [Accessed 24 Jan. 2022].