

I believe accessing files in a public directory 'pub' without the explicit permission or consent of the owner is ethically wrong. This holds true regardless of the content or nature of the files. Even if no direct harm is caused, and even if no actions are taken based on the information found in those files, I think accessing them still constitutes a breach of ethical boundaries and moral responsibility.

Some people may argue that such actions can be considered a harmless wrong, especially if they do not immediately or visibly harm the file owner. However, in my opinion, this still raises significant privacy concerns, including potential psychological, reputational, or discriminatory harms. For example, if a sensitive file, such as an assignment, is accidentally shared in a public directory, and someone plagiarizes that work, it could lead to disastrous consequences for the file's owner. The owner might be falsely accused of academic dishonesty, resulting in reputational damage and professional setbacks.

I also believe that if the public directory contains opinionated or personal files that differ from widely accepted views or challenge the reader's perspective, accessing these could lead to discriminatory judgments or biases against the owner. Such scenarios could cause psychological harm, undermining their mental well-being and sense of security.

Even if the directory contains nothing particularly sensitive, I strongly feel that invading someone's privacy is fundamentally wrong. It violates their autonomy and personal space. Furthermore, normalizing such behavior could encourage a pattern of unethical actions, ultimately eroding trust and respect for others' privacy in broader contexts.

I firmly believe that accessing files without explicit permission is ethically unjustifiable. Regardless of whether tangible harm occurs, it constitutes an invasion of privacy and sets a dangerous precedent for disregarding others' boundaries.