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Threac-25 and Ethics

Software applications that are developed will usually have a low success rate. For example, applications like Microsoft products, Windows products, and various other products are usually non effective when they are first developed. As time progresses with testing and further development, products will steadily improve and advanced overtime. Many of these products, if not well developed can lead to major problems for major corporations/companies. If certain software like Microsoft was not fully tested, companies like Microsoft would encounter many problems because their software was ineffective. This would cause these types companies to lose profit and/or time developing because people will invest in it once. When they see it is not up to standard, they will not invest in it again. Software testing is especially important for the health technology because poorly developed health technology is hazardous for human health. Software that is developed by developers should test their software thoroughly to make sure that there are no obvious missteps because bad software can lead to bankrupt and in some cases, death.

Testing for quality in any software is an important step when it is being used in the workforce. Without proper testing, the software can become malicious and cause a company to go bankrupt. This can lead to many people losing their jobs and the company collapsing. This ultimately traces back to the programmers because they are the ones who push the final product out. In the ACM code of ethics, it states, “Examples of harm include unjustified physical or

mental injury, unjustified destruction or disclosure of information, and unjustified damage to property, reputation, and the environment” (ACM 1.2). Many developers would skip the process of testing altogether because it will cost them less to develop. The company can profit once or twice off this method, but people will realize that the product is bad and will not invest in it again. This can cause a case of unjustified damage to the company that is creating bad software. It is unjustified because the lack of testing a piece of software was intentional. Not testing software thoroughly can lead to immense damage to not only companies, but also damage human life as well.

Software that has not been tested thoroughly is especially bad for humans because it is a danger to them. A lack of testing can potentially be fatal to humans because whoever is using it may encounter bugs that will provide faulty data. An example of this is the Therac-25 incident, which a lack of testing caused a button to have a different command than the correct one. In the ACM code of ethics, it states, “A computing professional has an additional obligation to report any signs of system risks that might result in harm” (ACM 1.2). Because of a lack of testing, the programmer can say that he/she is not obliged to report any signs because he/she does not know any. Because of a programmer’s carelessness, he/she could put a human life in danger. It can be intentional or unintentional. It is not only a singular programmer. It is also a variety of people that are involved in healthcare technology. According to the McCombs School of Business, “many groups of people (programmers, engineers, etc.) at various levels of a company are typically involved in creation of a computer program and have input into the final product” (1). Code testers can be a part of this medley of people. A company may completely omit testers because it costs an extra few dollars to test, but in reality, it can cause a company to go bankrupt and/or end a human life, like the Therac-25 incident. In the book of Genesis, God said, “Let us

make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground”. Here, God says that human life is precious and must be valued over anything else because humans are his creation. He created them in his own image. Even if companies can spend less on testing, they should do it anyways because they will preserve human life and make a profit because the consumer will buy the product a multitude of times.

Testing software products is an important factor when it comes to the wellbeing of a company and human life. These two factors are important to consider when it comes to deciding to test software thoroughly. Software should be tested often and thoroughly to check for bugs and glitches because it can cause major problems in the future.

Works Cited

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