DePaul University

**Personal Ethics**

Yongshan Tan

CSC208-501

Professor Santiago Cortez

03/03/16

Name: YONGSHAN TAN

Part I My Framework

1. I am a Chinese immigrant. I was born and get raise in China. My family have no religion belief. My parents taught me that ‘God’ is not the one control your life, you are the only one can control your life. So if you want to have a better life, you should work hard to earn it. There’s no free lunch, and the chance only appears in the person who is prepared. My family is working class. My parents work very hard to earn every penny. However, they don’t spend a lot of money on themselves. They spend money on my grandparents to provide them a better life. They spend money on me. They try to give me the best life they can. They think for others first. Therefore, I learn sacrifice. Sacrifice our own benefit to for our love. Think for the greater good before our own benefit.
2. My code of ethics is build up base on my family, my experience and my education. The processes for my decision making are 1) I look at intend first. If someone plan to do something with bad intend. I would not agree to the plan. If the intend is good. I move on step two. 2) the process of achieving the goal. If we can use legal way to achieve the goal, then I will move on next step. 3) Then, I will evaluate the process of achieving the goal. I will look at the pros and cons. I will calculate the total happiness of increased or decreased of the affected people. 4) I look at my own benefit. Will I affect by this goal? Is that good effective or bad? How big the effective would be? 5) If completing the goal will increase most affected people’s happiness, but my happiness is different than other majority’s happiness, in my accepted range, I can sacrifice my benefit for the greater good.

Part II Code of Ethics

***Preamble***

Since technology and computers have become an important part of our daily lives, our privacy have very close related to technology. As a student who major in software developer, if in the future I become a software developer, I will try to do so much as I can to protect the privacy of our customer who use our software.

1. ***principle 1****: I will not promises to protect customers who using our software’s privacy in extreme situations with the intent of infringe on their privacy.*

According to Kant’s first formulation of his categorical imperative (Birsch, 2014), 1) the maxim would be it is OK to infringe on customers’ privacy in extreme situations. 2) If everyone infringe on customers’ privacy in extreme circumstances, 3) then customers’ private information would be open source; privacy would no long private to the person. However, I want to protect our customers’ privacy and will not be able to if privacy would be open source. As a result, this rule is self-defeating when it is made into a universal law. 4) Therefore, it is not ethical to make promises to protect customers’ privacy with the intent of infringe on them.

According to Kant’s second formulation of is categorical imperative (Birsch, 2014) 1) when you lie to your customers for protect their privacy to gain their trust, but you did not take real action to protect their private information which save in the software. You are using their trust to create benefits to you and your company. 2) As a result, according to the second formulation, this act would be unethical.

1. ***Principle 2:*** *I think we should product all customers’ privacy all the time even sometime by all we need to release these private information.*

According to Social Contract (Birsch, 2014), 1) Base on the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, “The right of people to secure in their persons, house, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” This means our customers’ privacy should be protected except the officers have warrants. However, the privacy of people are very important. When we have others detail private information, which means we can know all about them like their daily regular, their favor and even their secrets that they would not like to share. We also can control and monitor them. Therefore, release customers’ private information may cause them to have economical damage, physical damage or emotional damage cause.

2) As a result, even by law we need to release target customers’ private information, if it involves have risking of other innocent customers’ private information release too, we can’t coordinate. Those innocent customers’ have right to secure their privacy. And we have responsibility and right to protect our innocent customers’ privacy too.

1. ***principle 3****: I think we get permission from customers to collect their data, and base on our customers’ data to develop the technology that fit to most of them.*

According Rule Utilitarianism (Birsch, 2014), 1) the affected parties include the all current customers, the company, the software developers, and the date analyzers

2) The universal moral rule can be all the company can use their customers authorized data to develop their technology that fit customers more.

3) if customers would like to give the company a permission to collect their data to develop the technology that fit them more, they will have a product that better fit their need, easier to use, and it can makes their work more efficiency. And all of these would increase their happiness. In other hand, if the customers would not like to share their private data, they can reject the authorization terms which would not decrease their happiness. When the company have customers database, they have a clearer direction of how to improve their product. They also know what feature that the technology that customers want and need. They can analyzes the problems that customers have when they use our product, then fixing the problem, and update the product to be better. All of these can help the company produce a produce that their customers like which can make the company earn more money. When the benefits to company increase, the happiness of the people in company increase. When the happiness of company increase, the software developers and data analyzers will have more benefits and money, so their happiness will increase too.

4) As a result, if we get permission from customers to collect their data, and base on our customers’ data to develop the technology that fit to most of them, the major affected parties’ happiness increase.

1. ***principle 4****: developing a software that can protect the company’s customers’ private database .*

According Act Utilitarianism (Birsch, 2014) 1) the major affected parties are the company and customers who authorized their data to the company.

2) If the company develop a software that protect their customer database, they need to spend an amount of time and money. They need to hire developers, and buy or create machines. However, after they have built up the software, their customers’ private database will have strong protected who decrease the risk of accidentally release customers’ private information. This can make current customer more willing to keep us their technology. It also can attract more new customers. Since customers’ privacy have better protection, their happiness will increase.

3) Therefore, in the short term, the company’s happiness may decrease because they need to spend money and time. But for the long term, the company’s happiness will increase because their credit will be increase and there will more and more customers trust and start or keep to use their products. And the customers’ happiness will increase too. So as a result, the total happiness will increase.

1. ***principle 5:*** *One of the major goal of the software that I will develop is we need to protect customers’ privacy.*

According to Aristotle’s ethical theory, 1) the goal is protecting every customers who use our products’ privacy.

2) There are many way to achieve this goal. One way is notice and ask permission of customers private information used before they get started to use the product. Another way is after we collected customers’ private data, we should save it in a much secured system. When the customers are using our product, in the process, we should have secured feature to make sure they wouldn’t accidentally release their private information. And there are many other way.

3) When we choose the right way with good intent to complete the goal, we are taking the right action.

1. ***principle 6****: Every technology product that we produce should contain a privacy security feature.*

According to my personal framework that described in Part I 1) the intention (goal) is trying to protected customers’ privacy as secure as possible which is good.

2) The way to achieve the goal is built up a security feature for every product that we produce.

3) The pons are the company’s credit will increase. The company can use it as an advantage to attract more new customers, and make the current customers would more like to stay. The customers will happier with the product because their private information get better protected. The cons is the company need to spend extract money and time to developer and add the security feature. Therefore, in the long term, the total happiness of affective parties such as the company and all customers’ happiness will increase.

4) As a software developer, my happiness is closely relate to the company’s happiness. Since the company’s happiness will finally increase, my happiness will increase too.

5) As a result this is very good action we can take.

**References**

Birsch, M. J. (2014) Introduction to Ethical Theories. IL: Waveland Press.

Cortez, Santiago (2014) PowerPoint: m2+Framing, slides: 3, 31, 32, and 36.

Lulis, Evelyn. Supplementary Handout on Applied Ethics. Handout. Ethics and Technology. 2014.

Tan, Yongshan (2016) Personal Ethics Draft

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |