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**Due Date:** 12/3/19

**Class:** COMP-4730

**COMP 4730 FALL 2019 FINAL PAPER**

Study the 10 case studies posted on Canvas, review the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct at <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>, analyze each case study from the standpoint of topics discussed in this course and in the textbook as well as the ACM Code, then fill the table below for each case study, and submit the ten tables as a single Word or PDF document by the NEW DEADLINE OF **11:59 pm Tuesday December 3**. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ALLOWED. Grading: 0.2 point per question except for the case study title (which MUST be provided).

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| Title of the Case Study | Case Study 1 (No title given) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether or not Steam (and similar platforms) games should be shareable if they were purchased from the platform, since they are digital goods that were purchased by users. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | The principle that I believe applies to this is principle 2.3, i.e., to “Know and respect existing rules pertaining to professional work”. If Steam (and similar platforms) were to respect the existing rules/laws of Europe (and other countries that allow digital goods to be shared), then there would be no ethical problem here; they would not have to do it in every country, and could therefore appease only those countries that have laws already in place for issues like this. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | If the games become property of the people who purchase them through these platforms, it promotes sharing of software ownership and overall access to these games. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | Companies like Steam will not be able to make as much money if the games that are being purchased can be legally shared; people would just repost the games on other websites for people to access without paying Steam. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the pro side of this argument, since this will allow people to have easier access to these video games; currently you can find any game offered by Steam on piracy websites, so it would be much safer if you could legally share copies of the games with other people in a trusted way. |

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| Title of the Case Study | FBI vs. Apple (Case Study 2) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether or not it is ethical for the government to request a backdoor implemented in devices produced by Apple. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 2.8, i.e., to “Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good” applies to this ethical situation. While the government was requesting a backdoor because they were “compelled by the public good”, it was not possible because the backdoor could apply to every device and is subject to insider abuse and several other consequences of development. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | The government could better investigate crimes if they can access electronic data without requesting a warrant every time. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | This type of unlimited power could be subject to insider abuse; government officials could misuse the power of the backdoors to utilize it for almost every crime, which would be a breach of privacy (especially in cases where the person being investigated is innocent). |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the con side of this argument, as the power of this system is subject to misuse by government officials; this type of privacy breaching is not something that should be used on everybody, and it is subject to being used for that if it were to be improperly implemented (which is highly probable). |

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| Title of the Case Study | Theft of U.S. Intellectual Property by Foreign Entities (Case Study 3) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | The theft of technology, computers, and software (and more importantly, intellectual property theft with regard to foreign governments). |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 1.7, i.e., to “Honor confidentiality” applies to this ethical situation; if we have more access controls and consequences in place to enforce trade secret confidentiality, intellectual property theft will become less of an issue in the world. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | It allows businesses in foreign areas to make money, which is generally good for the lower-class citizens in those countries. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | The intellectual property of American businesses are being replicated and mass-produced by foreign companies for personal gain or foreign government gain, causing for a loss of profits for the American businesses. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the con side of this argument (as in, I think theft of intellectual property is bad and businesses should be protected from it); if our trade secrets, designs, and creations are stolen and mass-replicated, it puts our local businesses at a loss of sales since their merchandise can be found online for cheaper. |

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| Title of the Case Study | Case Study on Tracking Chips (Case Study 4) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether it is ethical or not to implant tracking chips in every human being at birth. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 2.8, i.e., to “Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good” applies to this situation; if the tracking chip system were to be implemented appropriately, it could massively help with locating missing persons and overall make some technology aspects of life easier to interact with (such as in medical emergencies). |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | Kidnapped children would be easier to locate and rescue if they have a tracking chip, identification would become much easier and it could help with medical issues as well. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | There were no cons given in the case study; however, one major con would be insider abuse within the tracking chip system so that some people have access to any person’s location at any given time. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I would choose the con side of the argument, due to the high potential of insider abuse that would come with implementing the system; the negative consequences far outweigh the positives. |

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| Title of the Case Study | The Right to be Forgotten (Case Study 5) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | The most important ethical issue in this case is the “right to be forgotten”; i.e., the natural right to privacy that most people would want with their information. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 1.6, i.e., to “Respect privacy” directly relates to this argument; we are ethically supposed to respect privacy and not violate people’s natural rights. Europeans have this natural right given to them so images posted of them without their consent are immediately removed; this gives them a natural right to privacy that other governments are not allowed to infringe on. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | The pro argument in this case study is the fact that European citizens have the right to control what personal data is collected and published about them. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | A con was not given in this case study; however, a good con of people being allowed to rescind their own private information is that investigative services utilizing the internet will have a harder time collecting personal data during crisis events. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I would choose the pro side of this argument, since this practice could help massively with preventing cyber-attacks (especially against minors). |

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| Title of the Case Study | The Trolley Problem – Self-Driving Cars (Case Study 6) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether it is ethical or not to start using self-driving cars instead of the vehicles we currently use. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 1.2, i.e., to “Avoid harm” applies to this situation; if we are going to implement self-driving cars, we need to first be sure that they will not cause harm to anyone. To do this we need to think of every possible situation that can arise due to the use of self-driving cars, and do our absolute best to ensure that the car will avoid harm as best as possible in each of these foreseeable situations. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | While there is no specific pro’s or con’s labeled in this case study, one good pro would be their overall usage and the fact that they will (hopefully) rarely get into situations where they have to make choices like this. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | If the self-driving car were to be presented with two choices with either one ending in death, it would have to be programmed to handle it or choose which one to hit based on the amount of damage each choice would make. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the pro side for a reason that was not mentioned in the case study; if the self-driving cars were only implemented in large cities where people are expected to follow the rules of the crosswalks, there should (usually) not be any problems. I do not agree with implementing them everywhere however, due to this exact reasoning in the case study; the car should be programmed to handle these situations accordingly and accidents are more likely to happen in rural areas where the rules of crosswalks are not followed as heavily. |

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| Title of the Case Study | Case Study 7 (No title given) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether or not committing a computer crime as a form of digital protest for righteous reasons is ethical or not. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 1.2, i.e., to “Avoid harm” applies to this situation; when committing a computer crime, harm is a very possible outcome in the situation. If computer crimes are committed as forms of digital protest then they need to be sure that harm will not befall any people as a result of the protest; then it can be a peaceful digital protest and not be a problem. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | More public awareness was gained for the situation and the girl was eventually released by the hospital due to protests. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | The downtime produced by the DDoS attack costed the hospital a lot of money and could have potentially jeapordized many lives inside the hospitals. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the con side of this argument; this reckless attack could have resulted in many lives being lost, and it did not seem to end the situation any earlier; all this attack seemed to do is stir up general public unrest towards the situation while also costing the hospital a lot of money. |

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| Title of the Case Study | Case Study 8 (No title given) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether or not dumped databases are ethical to display on websites for ordinary people to interact with. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 2.7, i.e., to “Foster public awareness and understanding of computing, related technologies, and their consequences” applies to this situation; by fostering public awareness about these privacy breaches, we can hopefully help people strengthen the security of their online presence so they are not at risk of being attacked through the use of dumped databases. This is the only thing we can do in this situation, since nothing can be done about the online presence of dumped data; even if we made it illegal to display them on the Internet or share them, bad guys would still have access to them (and it would arguably make them worth a lot more). |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | Dumped databases can be sifted through by ordinary people to determine what of their private information has been leaked to the internet; this helps with increasing the security of your own digital footprint so that attackers are less likely to be successful. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | Attackers can use dumped databases to try old passwords on your other personal accounts; they can also get credit card information, social security numbers and other unencrypted personal details that the target entered into websites and use it against the target. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the pro side of this argument (and not just because I wrote this case study); information like this should be displayed to the public to heighten public awareness about online security. While attackers may misuse the information, it helps ordinary users secure their accounts better so attacks like these do not happen in the future. |

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| Title of the Case Study | Case Study 9 (No title given) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | I originally thought the most important ethical issue was whether or not the removal of the General Robert E. Lee statue located in Charlottesville’s Lee Park is ethical, but I believe the overall most important ethical issue is whether or not it is ethically acceptable to share photos of other people on the internet without their consent. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 1.6, i.e., to “Respect privacy” directly applies to this ethical situation; by not getting consent of the people in the photos, you may be violating their privacy. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | One pro of this argument (if we are going with what I believe to be the most important ethical issue) is that the photos of people involved got a lot of them identified as white nationalists. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | One con of this argument (again, with regard to the ethical issue I believe to be the most important in this case study) is that the people that had the pictures taken of them got into all sorts of trouble with their family members and jobs (although I personally think that’s appropriate for participating in the white nationalist movement). |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am on the pro side of this argument, as this being done had led to those white nationalist members being identified; this has also helped identify a number of other people involved in criminal organizations as well as corrupt government employees. |

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| Title of the Case Study | Case Study 10 (No title given) |
| What is the most important ethical issue in this case? | Whether or not it is ethical to mine the data of social media users for political influence. |
| What is ONE ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct principle (state the principle not just its number) that applies to this case and the ethical issue you identified? | I believe principle 1.3, i.e., to “Be honest and trustworthy” applies to this ethical situation. By Cambridge Analytica not being transparent about what their main goal was, they have failed this ethical principle. |
| State one PRO argument concerning the issue | The data mining could be used for positive things, so as a general practice it is ethical. |
| State one CON argument concerning the issue | The data mining was misused (such as in this case study) for personal gain of the Republican party, so that they could influence more people overall. |
| What is your decision or which side (pro or con) would you choose AND why? | I am con in this particular situation, but I am pro in the overall usage of data mining; in this situation it was misused for personal gain, but in the right situations this type of data mining can help businesses and companies with what they do. |