CS4320 Exercise 4.1 - Snowden Case

Overall, I believe that Snowden did the right thing, ethically speaking, by exposing the illegal actions of the NSA. The fact that the data was classified, yet still revealed to the public absolutely had an impact on the way in which the NSA grants permissions to employees. This also most definitely had effects on how the NSA monitors it’s employees, the way in which data is collected on citizens and the security of the data once it’s collected. The data that had already been collected could’ve impaired investigations that were ongoing at the time, which would’ve negatively impacted the security of NSA databases, and the employees allowed access to them as they wouldn’t want the wrong employees getting their hands on the data. Since the data was collected illegally, the NSA would have to take extra steps to ensure that they aren’t caught gathering information in the future, and would increase security measures to ensure the data isn’t leaked again.

The method in which Snowden released the information could’ve been done more anonymously and directly, which would’ve severely impacted the NSA’s security and harshly increased surveillance of employees. The data was obtained and leaked with relative ease, all things considered, which drew attention to the gaping holes in the NSA’s data security, as well as the fact that they aren’t monitoring the actions of employees close enough to prevent data from being stolen. Lastly, Snowden’s actions went directly against his employer and caused damage to their integrity. Further, this fact undoubtedly caused increased monitoring of employees, as well as the way in which the NSA collects and stores information on people.