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Cybersecurity Ethics has opened me up to many different perspectives and ways to look at ethics particularly relating to the cyber world. For a long time, I had thought of things as good and bad without knowing anything about ethics and understanding that the world has more gray areas and ways to view issues. This course taught me about the different ethical theories I could see in life and how to apply them to real-world examples. In this discussion, I will go over three different topics, perspectives, and or positions that I engaged with while taking this course.

The first topic I want to talk about and reflect on is utilitarianism. This was my first introduction to ethical theories because I have not had been introduced to them earlier. This tool started off by having us read a little bit about the ethical theory. This theory is all about maximizing the good in the world. An action would be considered good when the consequences of the said action increase the total amount of happiness in the world. We also had to read a short story by Ted Chiang, named "Understand," which is about a guy named Leon who took part in an experiment to heal his brain damage. This in turn did a little more than just heal his brain damage and gave him superhuman levels of intelligence. We then had to answer a couple of questions that related Utilitarianism to the story. Since this tool was my introduction to the world of ethical theories, it made me think on deeper levels about ethical and moral dilemmas. This tool made me think about moral problems, not through my lens, but through a Utilitarian lens. One takeaway I want my future self to walk away with is to not think and act selfishly. Like in the story with Leon, he did not want to work with Reynolds and make the world a better place. Leon did not want to help others because he was selfish. Leon had the power just like Reynolds to make actual change in the world but chose not to out of selfishness. I want my future self to try to make good change in the world if I have the power to do so, and not to waste it with selfish desires.

The next topic I want to discuss is professional ethics. This tool started off with us doing a case study on a TED Talk named "We're Building a Dystopian Just to Make People Click on Ads." We had to write a discussion board post that included our own code of ethics, which analyzed the problems outlined in the TED Talk. After the case study, we then had to analyze codes of ethics from different companies such as ACM, IEEE, and NSPE. We then used those codes of ethics and another work to analyze an article written by Bill Sourour. The module discussed ideas surrounding the need to uphold the safety health and welfare of the public and to treat co-workers and others with respect. This module deepened the idea that not only is it important to know how to do your job, but it is also equally important to know how to keep your community, coworkers, and company safe. You must be able to uphold ethical codes to keep the community out of harm's way. One thing that I can take away from this module is that I should not just do work because it gives me a paycheck, but I should really think about the actual contents of the work I am doing. I should be able to not only recognize if something is unethical but also speak up if something is unethical.

The final topic I want to discuss is Module One on Privacy. This module had us explore different topics surrounding privacy. A couple of main concepts we talked about regarding this topic are informational friction, infosphere, and a couple of Facebook myths. This module brought up an idea I had never thought about before, but makes a lot of sense, which is informational friction. Informational friction talks about the things that go against the flow of information. In the past, a book in the library was limited by the number of copies in the library. Now that so many books and information are online, it is not restricted by the number of physical copies anymore. There is also the fact that you do not have to go out into public for books or resources, you can order them online or purchase an electronic version, which makes it more accessible for people with disabilities or in more remote areas. This module made me realize that while people still had access to some of the same information, because of the internet it allows a lot more people to get access to information they otherwise would not have access to. One takeaway I got from this module, is that you have to be very careful with what you put on the internet. Even though you think that the things you put up are private, you should still try to not put things up that you do not want people to see.