One topic that I have a changed perspective on from this course is my opinion on cyber warfare. Prior to taking this course and really having to do a deep dive on the ethics of cyber war I always figured that the future of war was lighter than what it looks like right now. Like more people, I figured that cyber war was a minimal casualty better course of war, however now that I’ve gone into it I started to realize how dangerous it actually is, seeming to be more dangerous for the citizens of the country then those who are actually in the fight. The ethical consideration of cyber war is definitely something anyone studying the field of cybersecurity should look into, since cyber war has grown so much most people who pursue education in this field consider going into cyber warfare as a career at one point or another. I believe that anybody who decides they want to go down that career path should investigate the ethical considerations in a similar way to be sure it’s something they want to do. The main thing I took away from the cyber warfare case study was to always look into whatever career path I go into whether it be for a business or for the government.

Something that reinforced a previous belief for me is the case on personal data protection. I always believed that even if one is on social media there is still a sense of privacy that you can expect, despite most people trying to make the argument that you have no privacy on social media. I often just figured that people just haven’t found the right way to have a sense of privacy, even on the internet. The case analysis on privacy reinforced that belief, as it seems that it is just what social media companies would want the general population to believe. The second case analysis reinforced this belief as well, when looking at examples of other places like Europe who take its citizens privacy serious with regulations such as the GDPR, it seems evident that privacy can and has been achieved, the country, and its businesses, just don’t want to. One of the key takeaways I took from those two units was to hold people and companies accountable, not just in this case but in plenty others. I believe a lot of us just listen to what we’re told and learn to accept whatever it may be, and I’m no exception. However, when we look at how others go about protecting their citizen’s rights, such as the right to privacy, we see that it is possible to make things better for America as a country.

One final topic that has given me new insight on previous beliefs is the importance of professional ethics. To piggyback off my last point, I believe people are often programmed to do as they’re told without thinking too much of it in society, however this cycle is even more common in the workplace. Most people just want to do their job without thinking about exactly what they’re doing. For example, the case study provided an example where a girl ended up taking her own life due to a side effect from pills that she was falsely diagnosed due to a fixed online quiz. The creator of the quiz mentioned multiple times in the story about how he blamed himself, however it is interesting considering how many other times something similar has happened. I have often just done whatever I was told by people who I see as ‘above’ me, without ever truly thinking about what I’m doing. Although it is easy to not do anything that is obviously unethical in a professional setting, I’ve started to realize that it is important that one looks into what doesn’t seem like a big deal at first. The key takeaway from that case study was once again was for me remember to always look into what I do, whether at work, at school or anything else and to never blindly do what I’m told because I’m getting paid to do so. I believe the main principle of the course was to always uphold the ethicality of one’s actions over any sense of duty or principle.