

End of Course Reflection

Throughout the course Cybersecurity Ethics, I engaged with a variety of topics, ideologies, and perspectives. However, the three topics that I felt stood out to me and that I engaged with the most covered the topics of privacy, professional ethics, and utilitarianism. In terms of privacy, my viewpoint of how technology can really impact someone's was deepened. In the case in the case where Google was using its vehicles and cameras to capture images for its Street View platform so that users from across the world could virtual see what the world looked like from an eye's level view, I realized how viewpoints differed across the world to this new feat. Many users and non-users, including myself, in the U.S. did not have a problem with Street View technology, while recipients in Asian countries viewed their streets as part of their homes and felt like Street Views was invading the civilian's privacy. In European countries Street View was opposed because only the faces of civilians were blurred, and many felt as though they could still be identified by location, clothing, and body structure. This made me question the various ways we as a society are already, and could be, using technology that unethically impedes on a person's privacy, whether legal or not. The second topic that stood at to me was relationship between professional ethics and the cyber world. During this course I read a case about a programmer who coded a site for a pharmaceutical company that prescribed only one drug no matter the input from the user, which ultimately lead to the suicide of a young adult after taking the prescribed drug due to the side effects being depression and suicidal thoughts. That case made me realize how much of an impact that the technology we as technological personal create and code that we write can have severely adverse effects on thee end user. This raised the thought in my mind to always think twice about the technology I would be creating and whether or not it was ethically right for this form of technology to be created regardless of the payment amount or unethical instructions being provided by the clients. When it came to Utilitarianism in this course, my thought was deepened on how my future position would challenge me to make a utilitarian action to provide the best for all. An article related to whistleblowing was presented in this course where a former federal employee released information to the public on what the U.S. government was doing behind closed doors regarding cyber privacy. Th former federal employee in my opinion made a utilitarian move by releasing information on how the government was going to use cyber privacy to its advantage to keep track of all communications between its civilians, which increased the amount of known information to civilians which was good for society but at the cost of his own positioning and safety in the United States. I realized I may one day be caught in the same position as the former federal employee, although possible not on the same level as him, where I am forced to compromise someone else's position or my own to benefit the majority. At the beginning of the course, I really could not imagine myself sacrificing my position for others, as I have my family's and my own wellbeing to look after first. One of the

main ideas I want to take away from this course and keep with me in the future through my cyber endeavors is to always remember that I work for the people and society as a whole, and to question everything in my role that feels unethical and that does not benefit society. Without this ideology, I feel as though I will lose who I am and a sense of what is just in the world.