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Reflective Writing Assignment

Throughout this course in cybersecurity ethics, I have gained new understanding of the many ethical issues that pertain to technology, and the systems thereof. I have taken three important takeaways from this course that I did not have before. Firstly, Jarred Prier mentions the topic of *trend hijacking*, which is when something is used against its original intent. Typically this happens on social media, where hashtags and trends are in abundance. Also, social media allows for almost instantaneous sharing of information, so this type of hijacking is a big deal. It is important to note that trend hijacking is more of a human issue, than a technological one. When used in malicious intent, trend hijacking can be used as a tool for information warfare. This can be considered unethical, as it is using something other than what it was designed for. Before taking this course, I thought trend hijacking was similar to hacking social media, or using social engineering tactics. Now, I realize that it is heavily used in the marketing industry, and also by users to gain attention to certain issues. A key takeaway from this topic that I have gained is the importance of social media in spreading information. Many times, this is a good thing, but when used in a malicious intent, rumors and false information could spread rapidly, causing harm and confusion.

Secondly, the topic of standardization, specifically from a code of ethics view, is important to understand. A code of ethics seeks to maintain a standard of professionalism and ethical boundaries for what professionals should and should not do. Not only does this help the

professional, but it also helps to keep the profession in a good light. For example, rule number one of the ethical code for engineers states, "Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public" (NPSE). Initially, I thought that a code of ethics was simply a bunch of rules and regulations for workers. However, I now realize that it exists to help standardize services, and make sure everything is up to specifications from an ethical perspective. Ethical codes help to maintain professional reputations and provide better service. A key takeaway that I have gained is that a good company starts with a good code of ethics, as this is the moral foundation.

Thirdly, the topic of privacy is very important in the world of today. Luciano Floridi makes many valid points in regards to privacy. Floridi states, "Any society (even a utopian one) in which no informational privacy is possible is one in which no self-constituting process can take place, no personal identity can be developed and maintained, and hence no welfare can be achieved, social welfare being only the sum of the individuals' involved." (Floridi p. 12.) Floridi essentially explains how society needs privacy in order to function properly. Privacy is what allows us to act freely and find our true identities. For example, if society watched someone all day, chances are they would not feel comfortable, so they would act differently. However, in their own home, they feel more at ease, and will likely be their true self. This topic of informational privacy is essential to have in society. Without privacy, society would be a mess, and growth would be inhibited. Before taking this course, I thought privacy was being very secretive. However, I now realize that privacy is what allows us to find our identities, which can then be used to make a better community. A key takeaway from privacy is that it is a very valuable and important asset of society, and it helps to make people safe and avoid toxic societal norms.

Works Cited

4.2.c NSPE Code

7.2. Jarred Prier, "Commanding the Trend: Social Media as Information Warfare," Strategic Studies Quarterly, Winter 2017

Luciano Floridi, "Privacy: Informational Friction," from The Fourth Revolution. Oxford

University Press, 2014: pp 101–128.