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Reflective Writing Assignment

During Module 1, the concept of balancing informational friction with privacy and the mechanisms to tip the scales of that balance was a very fun topic to learn about in this module. Information technology has continued to expand and connect us, but the need for privacy will always remain. Informational friction is a great term to use when discussing this balance, and I'll continue to keep this in mind throughout my studies. I will also be sure to take this concept into my workplace, where I support the US Department of Defense. I think another big eye opener for me is that the concept of what is a private space or a public space is much more nuanced and dependent on the people in those spaces. I've been able to travel to several places around the world and experience different peoples' cultures, but their sense of privacy is not something I really explored (nor did I intend to explore the boundaries of that space). I've taken for granted the Western view of privacy at the individual level as being the norm around the world. However, until now I hadn't considered that some cultures (such as Japanese culture) consider their immediate public surroundings such as their sidewalks, alleyways, and neighborhood gathering places can be just as personal and considered a private place that deserves protection from prying eyes. The world is a still a big place and this module was a very good reminder that there are many ways to approach privacy that I still don't know about.

During Module 4, covering the different types of loyalty in a workplace setting was very informative. There are many different entities that we give our loyalties to, whether that's our family, friends, coworkers, employers, or even our morals. I've sat on hiring boards at previous jobs I've held, and it was a very common question one of my managers would ask a prospective hire: "What is more important to you: Loyalty to your teammates or doing the right thing?" There was no right or wrong answer, and usually we would watch as the interviewee struggled with what they thought we was the "right answer" or what we wanted to hear. I used to think that loyalty to my teammates was the right answer, but after taking this module, I've reconsidered this position. Concepts like *critical* loyalty or *rational* loyalty can lead us to make a decision that might seem disloyalty to my teammates or my employer's interest, but are in fact loyal to the common goals, mission statements, and morals that these different entities profess. I'll always keep this concept in mind going forward when faced with an ethical dilemma such as when to call out something immoral occurring in the workplace.

Discussing one of the many documents and videos that Chelsea Manning leaked to Wikileaks in 2010 was an incredibly challenging thing for me in Module 5. While I don't know Manning personally, her actions to become a whistleblower directly affected my young career as an intelligence analyst in the US Army. I had to spend three months in a secure facility in Northern Virginia as part of an information review task force that had to meticulously review all of the classified documents that Manning leaked. This effort was done so that the US government could determine how many operations or assets had been compromised as a result of the leak. I had only joined the Army in late 2008, and it turns out I also had one of the same instructors that taught Manning during her time at Army intelligence school prior to my class. Being part of that task force was one of my first assignments in the Army in 2010. My personal views on Manning and her actions

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are not very favorable, to put it mildly. However, I had not considered using utilitarianism to weigh the positive versus negative effects of leaking the *Collateral Murder* video, and my views on how the US mission in Iraq was conducted have changed. While I don't personally agree with Manning's decision to leak all the other documents, I can at least acknowledge and understand that Manning's leak of that video could be morally justifiable and was not an act of disloyalty. I'll definitely remember this case when I'm working with more junior members of my team, and to remind them that if they feel that there is something morally wrong about what is going on in the workplace, there are mechanisms in place for them to voice these concerns and correct these issues.