

## End of Course Reflection

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December 7, 2021

PHIL 355E

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As a Cybersecurity major, this class has helped me set aside the technical aspects of the career and look more into the interpersonal facets. Learning about different ideas surrounding ethics was beneficial for my development and being able to read about real-life scenarios regarding these ideas was interesting. Below are three topics that I have particularly found interesting and my reflections with them.

In module 2 we discussed data ethics and questioned why it was important to protect user data. I explained that it is important on the fact that there is a trust between user and company and breaking that trust negatively impacts both sides. Protecting the data also enhances the shield between user and cyber-criminals. We all know by now that as we grow technologically as a society, protecting user data from these cyber-criminals becomes more of a challenge. In recent news, Facebook has announced they are changing their name to “Meta”, on the premise that they are evolving and working towards a new “Metaverse”. There aren’t super in-depth details about this as of right now, but it is believed that they are attempting to create a sort of virtual reality experience on a whole new level. Many experts are concerned of the dangers that this will create. Dr. David Reid, Professor of AI and Spatial Computing at

Liverpool Hope University, thinks it will change our lives just like the internet did. He explains that the data this metaverse will generate will be vast and extremely valuable. As we can see, technology is yet again evolving and there will no doubt be a challenge protecting the users or meta. I think a takeaway from this is that it will be valuable to always be cautious moving forward when trying new technologies and not to put all your trust into one company. Being proactive is better than being reactive.

Staying on the subject of privacy, in module 1 we discussed and questioned “why” people deserve privacy and why it is good. My position was backboned with the idea that us citizens deserve freedom and invasion of privacies inhibit that. A counter some people may have is, I have nothing to hide, so why do I need privacy?”. To this I say first, privacy is a right you have been gifted, to act so nonchalant about it is sort of ignorant. Secondly, the idea that people have “nothing to hide” is far from the truth. A majority of people would never hand over their phone to another person and allow them to read their text messages or emails. A majority of people also have passcodes on their phones. Privacy can help protect you as information in the wrong hands can be a dangerous thing. My takeaway from this topic is that we should always protect our right to privacy as strong as we would protect out amendment rights.

My third and final topic was the one I found most interesting. In module 5 we discussed whistleblowing. The video that we were prompted to watch was about a case of whistleblowing that leaked a video of the murder of 12 people including 2 news reporters in a Baghdad suburb. I won't go back into the details of the case but in short, the videos portrayed US military soldiers casually conversing and shooting people from a helicopter far away. The controversy was in whether or not these attacks were justified, and I strongly believe that they were not. This case

affected me the most because we were able to witness actual tangible evidence and even hear the soldiers in the background. To think that this was only brought to light because someone was brave enough to leak it only makes me wonder how many other similar or worse incidents like this have happened. My takeaway is that its important to trust yourself and challenge even your authority figures at times because they may be in the wrong.