

Privacy:

I have come to realize how important privacy is. In the past, I never paid much attention when sharing any information on social media. Now, as a cybersecurity student, I think twice before posting anything. Undeniably, social media websites have become a major source of entertainment, which also helps us to stay connected with our friends and family. However, it has also provided a platform for attackers to exploit users' information. Using social media, they can simply learn about their targets and can use their information for malicious purposes. For example, an attacker often can figure out their passwords just from analyzing the details from their profile. Moreover, they can have access to their personal information like, phone number, date of birth, and full name. Users may not realize it, but all this information combined can be used to harm them significantly.

Key Takeaway: As social media offers great benefits, we can't remove it from our lives completely; however, we can definitely use it with precautions and effective cybersecurity practices. For example, some practices may include: only add people you know, make sure your privacy settings are properly configured, and never share any personal or sensitive information online.

Professional Ethics:

I think anyone can come to a point in their professional life when their perspective of morality may conflict with that of others. In that situation, making right decisions and right choices is very crucial for the individual as well as for the profession. In this case, ethics of care can be the right ethical framework to use. It shows that by taking care of the special relationship between individuals and their profession, both the individual and the profession would grow and flourish. For example, in the case of Sourour, the software engineer who wrote the code to deceive the public, if he had made decisions based on ethics of care, the outcomes would likely have been different and more favorable, not only for himself but also for the public and the company.

Key Takeaway: Institutionalizing whistleblowing is very crucial in any profession, as it would provide a proper channel for employees to report any wrongdoing. Doing so will discourage individuals from engaging in any immoral or unethical acts for their personal gain, ultimately resulting in better outcomes for the organization.

Information Warfare

In this class, I learned about information warfare for the first time. I actually never thought that information can be used in a way to change or manipulate someone's behavior. Certainly, information is a tool that can be used in modern time warfare. Unfortunately, it is used to deceive or misdirect the public in order to achieve their goals.

Using Contractarianism, I believe that information warfare is justifiable only when it is done for the right reasons and in an ethical way. For example, using information to deceive the public or attack democracy is not justifiable; however, if it is used to defend democracy, and to promote truth and transparency, it can be considered justifiable.

Key Takeaway: Misinformation may seem as harmless, but it can be highly dangerous. Therefore, it is very crucial that the public must not believe in everything they see online, but rather check the sources and research for the facts. Most importantly, media channels must ensure that the information is accurate and thoroughly fact checked before sharing it to the public.

Note: *This is my own work and I have proofread it.*

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