Reflective Essay

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Introduction

This semester's Cybersecurity Ethics course has explored several different ethical theories and how they apply in the real world and has significantly influenced my thinking of ethics in the workplace and my life. Three major topics have greatly impacted my thinking: CSR using Confucianism, Professional Ethics in Software Engineering, and Cyberconflict using Consequentialism. Analyzing these topics has broadened my ethical perspective and given me vaulable insights that will be helpful as I prepare to enter the cybersecurity field.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) using Confucianism

Initially, I had a narrow view of CSR, mainly considering companies' legal and economic obligations. Considering the Equifax breach through the framework of confucian moral reasoning has changed my perspective significantly. It holds executives to ethical standards and advocates for the duties and responsibilities of corporations to society. This case brought out trust issues and the ethical responsibility of companies in protecting individual data. However, my current understanding of CSR is not only about profits but also about being trustworthy to stakeholders and behaving ethically. The principle of goodwill from confucianism supports the idea that business organizations should serve society and carry out their functions based on moral values.

Takeaway: Corporate social responsibility and ethical leadership are important in creating sustainable businesses. Adhering to these values is the key to building trust, sustaining a business, and benefiting society.

Professional Ethics in Software Engineering

Initially, my definition of professional ethics in the technology field was limited and encompassed only technical skills and legal requirements. Specifically the case analysis of the

ethical dilemma faced by Bill Sourour, who was asked to develop a deceptive quiz for a pharmaceutical company, enlightened me a lot. Applying the ethics of care to this scenario highlighted the moral responsibility of software engineers for users' welfare and being truthful. This case highlighted that ethical decision-making in software engineering extendes beyond just technical aspects to also include safeguarding users and ensuring transparency. Ethics of care emphasizes such values as care, attachment, and relationship responsibility, encouraging individuals to consider the implications of their decisions for the betterment of society.

Takeaway: Ethical principles such as integrity and responsibility are crucial in technology. It is a natural extension of the focus on ethical decision-making for maintaining public trust and ensuring users' safety, focusing on the importance of integrity in all professional activities.

Cyberconflict using Consequentialism

When I first approached the concept of cyber warfare, my main concerns were more strategic and technical in nature. Incorporating the consequentialist framework into the Israel-Iran cyber conflict offered a new perspective on the concept. This approach analyzed the actions in terms of consequences, stressing that reducing the risks and increasing the gains is more important. The case also showed how civil infrastructure like water and health facilities suffered more from cyberattacks than military targets. These actions motivated by tactical gains lead to significant harm to the civilian population and economic losses. At the end of the day, they violate the consequentialist principle of proportionality.

Takeaway: Cyber activities need to be governed through ethical regulations and frameworks. The state should prioritize avoiding further harm and preserving stability to avoid making a difficult situation worse.

Conclusion

My ethical judgments and choices are significantly changed as I reflect on these topics. The course has been a great experience as it has helped me develop insights into the ethical issues of CSR, professional ethics, and cyberconflict. These lessons will follow me into my future career by stressing accountability, minimizing harm, and ethical leadership in any organization. In the future, I will strive to apply all these ethical principles in my life, and all the actions I am going to take within my career in cybersecurity should enhance the betterment of society and adhere to the highest moral standards.