

Module 4 Case Analysis: Ethical Dilemmas in Code Development

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Bill Sourour's case study, "The Code I'm Still Ashamed Of," highlights the complicated ethical issues surrounding code development and the real-world effects of this process. In 2000, Sourour was responsible for developing a pharmaceutical quiz website that would target teenage girls. He was a developer for an interactive marketing agency at the time. Pharmaceutical companies' covert efforts to sell their meds on the website reportedly offered public information about symptoms and treatments (Sourour, 2019). A crucial ethical dilemma came about when Sourour discovered that the questionnaire unethically suggested the client's medication as the best treatment regardless of the user's answers. Tragically, a young girl who used the drug and then took her own life is a reminder of the fact that he was initially unaware that the medicine's major side effects included extreme depression and suicidal thoughts. Because of this terrifying incident, Sourour pondered the ethical duties of software engineers and the consequences of his work.

The immorality of creating the pharmaceutical quiz's CodeCode is the central topic of this case study. The research shall adhere to the principles outlined in the IEEE Code of Ethics, with a particular emphasis on honesty, responsibility, and public protection. In addition, I will use an ethical tool to analyze Sourour's behavior, which will help better grasp the ethical aspects of code development, brainstorm potential solutions, and draw conclusions. The thesis will conclude by arguing that the CodeCode posed moral problems because it was misleading and might have hurt the public. It will then go on to discuss whether or not Sourour should have done something different and, if so, why.

Members pledge to always operate with the utmost honesty and responsibility by adhering to the IEEE Code of Ethics. An example of dishonesty is Sourour's assignment to design a misleading pharmaceutical quiz that put the customer's needs ahead of his own.

Concerns about unethical activity during development arised from the coding exercise's lack of responsible behavior. Public safety and welfare are of utmost significance in the Code (IEEE, 2020). Ethical questions arise from Sourour's role in developing a website promoting a medicine with serious side effects, tragically leading to unfortunate outcomes. The disregard for end-users welfare demonstrates a violation of this basic concept. Avoiding illegal or conflicting activities is a requirement of the CodeCode for professionals (Ozkaya, 2019). In Sourour's case, the duty to give correct information may be at odds with developing a misleading website for a pharmaceutical corporation. There seems to have been a disregard for ethical design principles in the quiz, given the haziness around its intended use and the damage it did.

Experts should be open to constructive criticism, self-aware when they make mistakes, and reasonable when they state their claims. In this situation, critical review was not conducted throughout the construction of the quiz. It shows a need for more commitment to soliciting constructive input and quickly fixing mistakes. The examination must be corrected once its misleading nature is pointed out. Having one another's backs and acting ethically are two things the Code stresses (Ozkaya, 2019). Sourour's experience demonstrates the significance of having supportive peers in promoting ethical behavior. The team's lack of commitment to the CodeCode may have aided the project's oversight and subsequent ethical breach.

Ethical issues that align with the IEEE Code of Ethics are brought up by the development process, according to Sourour's description, in the pharmaceutical quiz scenario. Significant infractions include not prioritizing public safety and welfare, not being transparent about the quiz's goal, and not having steps to avoid conflicts of interest. Writing the misleading CodeCode raises moral concerns; the CodeCode is meant to direct professionals to behave responsibly, honestly, and ethically (Blum, 2022). Instead of moving on with the development because of the risks it posed to the public, Sourour may have questioned the project's ethical

implications, demanded open communication with the client, or even refused to do it. If Sourour had strictly adhered to the IEEE Code of Ethics, she would have been guided to make more ethical decisions in this difficult situation.

An ethical framework based on consequentialism, especially utilitarianism, examines Bill Sourour's case. This code of conduct seeks to maximize happiness or wellbeing by evaluating the morality of an action in light of its implications (Crisp, 2022). Looking at Sourour's behavior from a practical perspective makes the misleading pharmacological test seem immoral. The advertising of medicine with serious adverse effects has the potential to hurt vulnerable individuals, especially young girls, which goes against the utilitarian ideal of enhancing overall wellbeing. The alleged suicide of a young girl who took the prescribed medication is proof that Sourour's blind obedience to the client's order without considering the ethical consequences created a code that may do serious harm. The utilitarian view highlights the harmful effects and moral dilemmas caused by creating and using such misleading software.

According to utilitarianism, Sourour should have argued for a more morally sound strategy after considering the possible harm the pharmaceutical quiz could have caused. For example, you might refuse to build a CodeCode that could lead to misleading practices, tell the right people about the ethical problems, or look into other, less destructive ways to accomplish the client's aims (Crisp, 2022). Following the principles of utilitarianism, which stresses the importance of maximizing happiness for all, would have led Sourour to act more ethically in this situation.

The conflict between looking at Anwuli's predicament from a justice perspective and a care ethics one is at the heart of Armstrong's case. Anwuli is seen as the one who is at fault in the traditional view, which is impacted by justice, because of her relationship with a married

man. On the other hand, the ethics of care call for a kinder interpretation of Anwuli's situation, considering details like the fact that she had no idea the guy was married. The example presents utilitarian ethics to assess the behavior of those in Anwuli's immediate vicinity. As it reduces harm and maximizes total wellbeing, assisting Anwuli would be the ethical decision, according to utilitarianism (Crisp, 2022). By highlighting the interdependence of people, the idea of mutual flourishing expands this ethical issue even further. The moral imperative of social support and care is emphasized by the fact that abandoning Anwuli harms both her and her unborn child.

Armstrong's case study shows the importance of diverse ethical frameworks in determining how community members understand their moral obligations and what constitutes proper behavior. An excellent setting for honest research is the difference between decisions based on caring and decisions based on justice.

There are numerous social choices that Anwuli must make throughout her life; for example, her involvement with a married man leads to her rapid stigmatization as a home wrecker. Isolation resulted from the friends, family, and community people who had previously supported him cutting links due to his decisions. These extreme steps show that the justice system is focused on placing blame and punishment rather than understanding the situation's seriousness. It has been done, and according to legal procedure, Anwuli is guilty of it. A more nuanced problem, nevertheless, arises when seen through the lens of ethics of care. Rather than being motivated by malice, Anwuli may have been unaware that the man was married (Hamington, 2019). Recognizing the complexity of human connection, the reflective approach stresses the significance of understanding and support.

At first glance, assisting Anwuli is in line with doing what is best for society according to utilitarianism, as it helps to minimize harm. Because of the effect her departure had on her

unborn child's health, Anwuli's emotional suffering was intensified. The ethical necessity of treating each other with compassion and reciprocity to minimize harm is emphasized by all individuals comprehending their interactions and thriving on each other (Crisp, 2022). To demonstrate the profound moral implications of social actions and the significance of measuring them subtly, Anwuli compares responses centered on punitive justice with those based on more compassionate care.

The ethical foundation for investigating the Anwuli issue is based on the principles outlined in the IEEE Code of Ethics, which include non-discrimination, respect, and justice. According to Ozkaya (2019), this tool offers a framework for assessing the ethical considerations, interpersonal dynamics, and societal decision-making outcomes related to complex human interaction concerns. The importance of treating people fairly regardless of societal ideas is emphasized when the IEEE Code of Ethics applies to Anwuli's case. Even if Anwuli was unaware of the man's marital status, Sadhan still had reservations about the thoroughness of the investigation. Ethical Tools explores a non-discriminatory, inclusive, and equitable approach. Anwuli continues to work on these topics despite obstacles. Strong interpersonal contacts, mission value establishment, and caring activity engagement should be considered while seeking suitable ethical solutions (Hamington, 2019). Following the principles outlined in the IEEE Code of Ethics, Anwuli's narrative highlights the need of treating others with respect, avoiding prejudice, and making reasonable decisions when confronted with challenging circumstances.

Finally, Anwuli's situation and Bill Sourour's comments show ethical troubles in the commercial enterprise and professional worlds. The IEEE Code of Ethics highlights the importance of honesty, loyalty, and country wide obligation when examining the Sourour case through this lens. Examining Anwuli's state of affairs from a moral point of view centered on dignity and justice lets in us to shed light on the societal consequences experienced by way of

individuals who manage to triumph over extraordinarily tough marriage troubles. Recognizing that moral frameworks will constantly be essential, no matter societal and technological advances, can assist cease criticisms about the sustainability of moral requirements. In the grand scheme, it is smooth to look how moral requirements impact human verbal exchange and technological progress. The examine recognizes these boundaries and highlights the importance of non-stop conversation to beautify and regulate moral coverage in a converting global. It also urges a collective determination to accountable moves and mutual assist for health.

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