

by Wang Wang - Saturday, 4 February 2023, 8:02 AM

Peer Response

Hi Zihaad, thanks for your excellent post discussing technology on Automated Active Response Weaponry.

This case is a typical dilemma when there is a conflict between professionals and the ethics of an engineer. Every day, a similar case could happen everywhere, like software engineers involved in collecting user data, facial recognition, and automated weapon.

When company Q was involved in developing the automated active response weaponry system, it cared about functionality without ethical consideration. However, technology is not just applied to functions, and it also should include the context of use (Albrechtslund, 2007). ACM (item 1.1) and BCS (item 1.a) consider the public the highest priority (BCS, 2022) (ACM, 2018).

The engineers' action, in this case, to resign to protect the system development and disclose information to the public could violate the contract or employee code. Still, ACM and BCS have indicated you can judge and take action based on your judgement, but you could take the sequence it brings. It remains me, Edward Snowden. He rather is wanted by the U.S. than disclose that people's privacy could be threatened by the government's global surveillance project (Board, 2014). IT professionals how to determine what action they should take in a similar case. It depends on what is 'good' they define in their mind. Let IT stakeholders to attend the ethics seminar could be a good point (John, 2018).

Reference

BCS. (2022) The Chartered Institute for IT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BCS MEMBERS

ACM Ethics. (2018) ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

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John, M., 2018. Ethics vs morality | BCS. [online] Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/articles-opinion-and-research/ethics-vs-morality/>.