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# Module 2

Student workbook

Module 2

## Cyber ethics

### Learning objectives

Students will understand:

- What ethics are
- Why ethics are important
- How to act ethically
- The responsibility that comes with knowing cyber security principles
- How to apply ethics in the real world



Presented by



**NORTHROP  
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## Principles of cyber ethics

For each of the scenarios below, which principle of cyber ethics did they breach?  
(each situation might include the breach of more than one principle)

Write your answers to each scenario below:

- Jaxson walked past Mohit's open laptop and changed the desktop background to an embarrassing picture of Mohit.
- Sammy found Jaidyn's phone and scrolled through her photos, sending some to herself then deleted the messages she sent.
- Susie downloaded all the latest season of *The Mandalorian* to watch at home from a non-Disney website.
- Cayden took a YouTube video he did not make, edited out the titles, and submitted it to his teacher as his own work.
- Steffi created a Facebook account pretending to be her teacher and used it to message students telling them they got bad grades.

**Can you write a definition of what is right and what is wrong? Why do you use that definition? Explain your thought process below (there will be many different versions of this definition).**

**Write your own definition of ethics and ethical behaviour.**

**What are three examples of written ethical behaviours and three examples of unwritten ethical behaviours?**

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Describe *Overconfidence Bias* and use an example in your answer.

Discuss the following questions with friends or family, online or in-person, and summarise your answers below:

**Does the Internet make it easier or harder to act ethically?**

**Is it easier or harder to do the right thing when others are watching?**

**Is it easier or harder to do the right thing when it means that you must choose between friends?**

## Case study 1 – Cyber ethics

Terry Childs was a 43-year-old network engineer for the city of San Francisco. He worked on our fibre-optic network, called FiberWAN, which handled crucial government data, such as email, legal documents, and payroll. By most accounts, he was a diligent and talented employee, and he seemed dedicated to making sure our systems ran safely. Childs spent hours trying to perfect the FiberWAN system, upgrading equipment and installing firewalls. In the summer of 2008, Childs was reassigned, and when he was instructed to hand over the password, he had created for FiberWAN, he refused.

No one could get into the FiberWAN without that password—emails were inaccessible, payroll couldn't go out, and documents were under virtual lock and key. The city was in crisis. We had to have that code! We spent at least \$1 million, including hiring a team at Cisco Systems, to crack the code, but they couldn't do it.

We had no choice but to try to compel him to give up the password, so the police arrested Childs on a charge of felony computer tampering and put him in jail. But he still wouldn't give up the code. I was as honest as I could be, asking him to give me the code as a favour, if nothing else. And he responded. Childs said he didn't trust his bosses or colleagues, but at that moment, he trusted me. He wrote down the code—all 28 numbers and letters of it—and handed it over.

*Excerpted from:*

[http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future\\_tense/2013/02/fiberwan\\_terry\\_childs\\_gavin\\_newsom\\_on\\_why\\_governments\\_should\\_outsource\\_technology.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2013/02/fiberwan_terry_childs_gavin_newsom_on_why_governments_should_outsource_technology.html)

**Should Terry Childs have been arrested? Explain your reasoning.**

**Which principle(s) of cyber ethics did Terry Childs violate, if any?**

## Case study 2 – Personal ethics

The CEO of Centerplate, a catering company that serves food at sports stadiums around the country, was caught on camera kicking a dog in a Vancouver elevator.

After issuing a public apology, Hague agreed to attend anger management counselling, serve 1,000 hours of community service, and donate \$100,000 of his own money to an animal charity.

Less than a week later, he was forced to resign.

From all other metrics, Hague was a good CEO, his company grew and profited while he was in charge.

*Excerpted from: <http://fortune.com/2014/09/02/centerplate-ceo-des-hague-dog-abuse-fired/>*

**Should Desmond Hague have been forced to resign?**

**Explain your reasoning.**

## Ethics activity

This exercise will help you understand how ethical situations might present themselves in the real world.

You are presented with a variety of situations and courses of action. You will then be asked to choose the most ethical course of action in each situation. In some situations, there are answers that are clearly more ethical than others, but this is meant to be an activity with ambiguity.

### Online learning adjustment

Where possible, students should formulate their responses to the case studies and ethics activities then discuss them with classmates. This could be facilitated through a video classroom or an online discussion board.

## Scenario 1 – To hack or not to hack?

Emily posted a picture of your friend Jayden on Instagram. The picture makes it look as if Jayden is consuming alcohol, but you know that he wasn't. Your friend Jayden is very upset and Emily refuses to take the picture down. Jayden asks for your help in getting into Emily's Instagram account to remove the picture.

What should you do?

- A. You do not want Jayden to get into trouble. So, you tell him that you are only going to help him once. Then you use a tool that you found on the internet to help Jayden get into Emily's Instagram account and remove the picture.
- B. You let Jayden know that Instagram allows people to report images that violate their rules. You help Jayden contact Instagram to have them remove the picture and you let him know that it may take a few days to get an answer.
- C. You don't want to be a bad friend, so you help Jayden remove the picture. Then, you change Emily's password so she cannot repost the picture. Later, you borrow Emily's phone and delete the picture from there too so that this situation will be over.
- D. You explain to Jayden that it's his fault for being in the picture in the first place and Emily shouldn't have to take down the picture. You also explain how things can stay on the internet forever and that you do not want to be friends with people who do not make good decisions.

**Which is the most correct option? Explain your choice. Why are the other options incorrect?**

**Describe how you feel both Emily and Jayden might feel. Is it easy to choose a side in this situation? Explain your answers.**

## Scenario 2 – How to deal with a bully?

You and your friends are playing an online game and a classmate, Alex, is logging on and breaking the rules. Alex's obnoxious behaviour is making it very difficult for you and your friends to enjoy the game. You have reported him to the game publisher, but he keeps creating new accounts and harassing you.

You recently found a tool on the internet that allows you to remove a person's computer from the game temporarily. The website where you found the tool says that it doesn't cause any long-term damage.

What should you do?

- A. You should use the tool you found just this once so you can enjoy your game in peace.
- B. You and your friends have paid for this game like everyone else and you deserve to play it without being harassed. You should use the tool anytime Alex comes on and starts harassing you.
- C. You look up the standards of conduct and complaint procedures for the game. You tell your parents, or another adult, about Alex's harassment and ask them to help you report the behaviour appropriately.
- D. All the things that Alex is doing to you, you should do back to him. He should treat people the way he wants to be treated.

**Which is the most correct option? Explain your choice. Why are the other options incorrect?**

**What are some potential ramifications for using the tool? Consider what you have already learnt about cyber safety and security in your response.**

## Scenario 3 – Am I still responsible?

It is Sophia's first day as an intern in a computer security firm and she and her supervisor Christopher, walk by another intern's computer workstation. The workstation has not been locked down and they notice that the browser is currently opened to the user's banking website. Christopher is a well-respected person in the firm, but a bit of a practical joker, and decides to play a joke on this person's unsecured computer. He logs out of the banking website to protect the user and then proceeds to change the computer desktop background to kitten images. Sophia feels uncomfortable about what Christopher is doing and asks if his actions are a good idea. He states, 'nah, it's not a big deal. Besides, it'll teach him a lesson'. She laughs and says, 'okay, then we should make the background My Little Ponies'. Christopher locks down the station, and he and Sophia step aside and wait to see what happens.

**Have Sophia and Christopher acted ethically? Why or why not?**

The intern returns, unlocks his station, and becomes visibly upset. He logs back into his banking site and furiously begins looking at his transaction history. Sophia notices that he looks upset, approaches the intern, and apologises for what happened. She assures him that nothing malicious happened. The intern is initially irritated but then tells her it is okay. He was initially just scared and was worried about someone stealing his banking information.

**Does the intern's acceptance of the joke absolve Christopher and Sophia? Why or why not?**

**Is everybody held to the same standards when it comes to their actions? Use this scenario to explain your answer.**



## Scenario 4 – Good intentions

Ashley recently took a computer security class where she learned about Wi-Fi. She learned that some Wi-Fi passwords can be easily broken. Ashley, who is excited about what she has learned in class, shares what she learned with her aunt. Her aunt states that the store where she works has Wi-Fi with one of these easily broken passwords but does not disclose to Ashley what that password is.

Ashley tells her aunt that is a problem, but her aunt tells her that they have very good IT people who will keep them protected. Ashley really wants to help the store where her aunt works, so she breaks the password to prove to her aunt that the system really is broken.

**Has Ashley acted ethically? Why or why not?**

**Assume Ashley did not use the password to access the Wi-Fi or any other systems connected to the Wi-Fi. She only showed her aunt the password to help make the store more secure. Does this change your answer?**

**Does acting with good intentions excuse unethical behaviour? Explain your reasoning.**

## Scenario 5: Privileged information

Jessica has a group project due tomorrow, and she and her friends have been working hard on it. Yesterday, her group gave the final copy to Derek so that he could print it out and turn it in. Unfortunately, Derek is out sick today and not answering his phone. The group is at risk of getting a lower grade if the project is turned in late. Jessica has seen Derek type in his password multiple times and knows that she can get into his email account where their project is stored.

- A. She should use the password just this once to retrieve and print the assignment so that the group doesn't get a bad grade. It would be unfair if the group were punished because one person was sick. Derek certainly wouldn't want them to get a bad grade.
- B. She should use the password to get and print the assignment. When Derek gets back, she should tell him what happened and help him choose a new password. That way it's not a big deal because she told him what happened and her friends won't get mad that she didn't use what she knew to help them get a good grade.
- C. She should tell the teacher the situation and ask the teacher to make an exception just this once and allow the group to turn in the project late. In the future, she should always make sure that multiple people in the group have access to the final project to avoid this type of situation.
- D. She should log into Derek's account to get and print the assignment. Then she should immediately change the password and let Derek know the new password when he gets back. She should also show him how to avoid other people learning his password by watching him type it in.

**Which is the most correct option? Explain your choice below. Why are the other options incorrect?**

**When dealing with information or computer security, there may be times where we are in possession of *privileged information*. Explain why you think it was wrong of Jessica to use her privileged information, and which cyber ethics principles it goes against?**

## Scenario 6: Responsible actions

Joel is a competitor in the CyberTaipan National Finals competition. During the competition he overhears a member of another team talking from across the partition. He is not actively trying to hear the conversation, but it is a little louder than the others, and his voice projects rather well.

Joel overhears the member of the other team suggest checking a port number that he did not think about, and it inspires him to check the same port for vulnerability. The CyberTaipan Rulebook states that competitors should receive no outside assistance which includes direct and indirect advice.

**Is Joel obligated to report what he has overheard? Why or why not?**

**What if Joel tells the other competitor to quiet down and that he can hear him talking? Does that exonerate Joel from what he has overheard?**

# Module 3: Cyber ethics

## Ethics introduction

My understanding of what ethics are and why they are important.

**Needs more work**

**Completely confident**



## Acting ethically

My understanding of how to act ethically.

**Needs more work**

**Completely confident**



## Cyber security principles

My understanding of the responsibility that comes with knowing and using cyber security principles.

**Needs more work**

**Completely confident**



## Applying ethics to real world situations

My understanding of how to apply ethics to real world situations.

**Needs more work**

**Completely confident**

