

CS 4873-A Computing and Society | Spring 2021
Instructor: Munmun De Choudhury
Professional Ethics

Due:	March 5, 2021, 11:59pm
Format	Approximately 3 pages, double spaced, single column, 12 point font
Logistics	Submit as a PDF on Canvas
Grading criteria	Completeness
	Writing
	Insight into an ethical theory or code used for justification
	Quality of reasoning, or ethical analysis
	Late policy applies
Grade	60 points (6% of your overall grade)

Question 1 (30 points): Edward Snowden, an American computer professional, former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employee, and former contractor for the United States government, in 2013, copied and leaked classified information from the National Security Agency (NSA) without prior authorization. His disclosures revealed numerous global surveillance programs, many run by the NSA and the Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, with the cooperation of telecommunication companies and European governments¹.

Refer to the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (Quinn chapter 9) and examine which clauses may legitimize Snowden's actions. Additionally, find the clauses that his actions may have violated. Provide your rationale behind your choice of the clauses.

Question 2 (30 points): Tony, a data analyst for a major casino, is working after normal business hours to finish an important project. He realizes that he is missing data that had been sent to his coworker Robert. Tony had inadvertently observed Robert typing his password several days ago and decides to log into Robert's computer and resend the data to himself. Upon doing so, Tony sees an open email regarding gambling bets Robert placed over the last several days with a local sports book. All employees of the casino are forbidden to engage in gambling activities to avoid any hint of conflict of interest.

Tony knows he should report this but would have to admit to violating the company's information technology regulations by logging into Robert's computer. If he warns Robert to stop his betting, he would also have to reveal the source of his information. What does Tony do in this situation? Explain your answer based on the eight fundamental principles of professional ethics (Quinn chapter 9), that alternatively state the eight categories within the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden