

Bob Ogden's Notes and Resources

The N.S.A. and the Ethical Formation of Computer Scientists

SftP Conference

UMass Amherst, 20140412 1:00-2:30

Math and Computer Technology | Organizer: Robert Shapiro | Room: Campus Center 903

Outline: Have about 15 minutes

1 Introduce self and URL for resources <http://cs.txstate.edu/~ro01/sftp/>

1 min. Anecdote about teaching CS ethics and NSA recruiting

1 min. N.S.A. background

1 min NSA core values

2 min. A.C.M. and I.E.E.E Codes of Ethics and the Duty of Whistle-Blowing

2 min SftP and the Importance of Examples of Virtue

3 min. Discussion of Snowden on the Web in the IT Community

Letter of formal NSA professionals to the President

4 min. Solutions?

--Oppose the contracting out of surveillance.

--Advocate requiring all intelligence agency (NSA, CIA, DIA, etc.) workers to take an oath to uphold the Constitution and Bill of Rights, which has precedence over any confidentiality agreement within the Agency.

--Actively support whistle-blowers and laud them as loyal Americans and world citizens.

--Support an ethics requirement in all certification and degree plans [such a course can be fun and not just another the student must pass through].

Resources for talk "The N.S.A. and the Ethical Formation of Computer Scientists",
Science for the People, the 70's and Beyond, UMass Amherst, 12 April 2014

<https://www.acm.org/about/code-of-ethics>

<https://www.schneier.com/>

wants to break up NSA

<http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html>

code of ethics, 1st principle:

to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/riskfactor/computing/it/does-the-nsa-really-need-direct-access>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PRISM_%28surveillance_program%29

2007 Protect America Act started PRISM .

<http://www.nsa.gov/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Agency

<http://consortiumnews.com/2014/01/07/nsa-insiders-reveal-what-went-wrong/>

letter to the President from NSA insiders We the undersigned (William Binney, Thomas Drake, Edward Loomis, and Kirk Wiebe) worked with NSA for a total of 144 years, most of them at senior levels. We feel bound by the solemn oath we took to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, to make truths known to you that you may find as unconscionable as we do.

the "First Commandment" at NSA; namely, "Thou Shalt Not Eavesdrop on Americans Without a Court Warrant."

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS).

blames corruption: example: THINTHREAD

http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/our_sinister_dual_state_20140216

Chris Hedges, need more like Snowden to stand up.

http://www.truthdig.com/avbooth/item/imagining_an_ideal_nsa_20140113

Hedges and Binney, part II.

An ideal NSA would follow the Constitution. stick to a smaller subset of people to spy on ("terrorists" and people directly in communication with them instead of monitoring everybody, and be subject to review by an outside technical agency to assure that what NSA tells Congress and the President is true.

http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/reclaiming_the_radical_imagination_20140113

good critique of "higher education" in the USA.

http://www.truthdig.com/avbooth/item/chris_hedges_and_bill_binney_on_nsa_guidelines_20140110

Hedges and Binney, part I .

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=10482

<http://www.ndpci.us/certification/Ethics.php>

National Domestic Preparedness Coalition Code of Ethics

http://www.cengage.com/resource_uploads/downloads/1111138214_259148.pdf

Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues in Information Security. Ch. 3 of ?

no discussion of whistleblowing

http://isc2intersec.leveragesoftware.com/blog_view.aspx/CustomerID=dfa7670688064ebf8cc03707eae161a

blog of Gavin Landless .

Does the InfoSec community have an ethical responsibility to speak out against the NSA surveillance?

"I get to make up my own mind as to whether or not I feel that the NSA is acting for the common good (that is part of my acting ethically -- I am not writing this to try to sway others' views in that regard), but if I believe that the government is acting wrongly then I AM ETHICALLY OBLIGED as an InfoSec professional and CISSP-holder to do something about it." Commenter disagreed, tradeoff between security and liberty.

<http://wordofpie.com/2013/06/17/snowden-the-nsa-and-ethics/>

"I am not here to discuss whether or not Edward Snowden should have released the classified material. That is a debate for another day and another forum. I am going to say that Snowden violated some of the core ethical principals of the Information Technology as a whole. It wasn't the releasing of the PRISM slides that angers me. It is the fact that a Systems Administrator should not have been aware of the presentation in the first place." Goes on to quote ACM code of ethcis about Honor Confidentiality.

Snowden broke trust.

<http://www.uh.edu/ethicsinscience/Links/Social-Responsibility.php>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/05/engineering-moral-effects-technology-impact>

Abbas El-Zein, University of Sydney

"Engineering ethics are mostly technical: how to design properly, how to not cut corners, and how to serve our clients well"

"It will be a bright day for our profession when we start producing more engineers who, while just as smart as Rogers, have the will and the intellectual capacity to engage with bigger questions about the ethics, politics and social ramifications of their inventions."

<http://www.theiet.org/forums/forum/messageview.cfm?catid=220&threadid=54501>

Edward Snowden and the power of the privileged insider,

by Matt Middleton-Leal, Cyber-Ark

"Whether you are a Snowden sympathiser or not, the fact remains that the case should provide a stark warning when it comes to the level of access granted to employees. "

"– are you doing enough to secure the 'keys to your kingdom'?"

<http://mises.org/daily/6474/>

Ludwig von Mises Institute, The Ethics of Whistleblowing, by Ben O'Neill

"confidentiality contracts are not legitimate and should not be regarded to be ethically or legally operative when the confidentiality is designed to protect secret unlawful actions that are being taken by one of the parties. This is part of a wider objection in law to what are sometimes called “unlawful agreements”"

"In view of this fact, it is not correct to regard the ordinary operation of confidentiality rules as being either ethically or legally binding. Whatever contractual or legislative restrictions would ordinarily operate on Snowden's employment, they cannot be regarded to be legitimate if they require him to keep secret his knowledge about government misconduct and law-breaking. "