**Peer Response 1**

**Context:** [**https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=314326**](https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=314326)

Hi Andrey,

I enjoyed reading your views on not just the case study, but how codes of ethics are applied in the workplace as well. Newer literature agrees with your assertions that the application of ethical codes to the workplace is far from ideal: Gogoll et al. (2021) argue that because software codes of conduct are written as principles, they quickly become impractical when applied to a real-world situation. The authors explain that this is because principles are just principles- they don't advise users on how to approach an ethical problem or balance competing factors. For example, a situation may arise where a developer needs to balance between security and time-to-market (a situation perhaps relevant to Corazon), however, ethical codes don't explain how to decide which one to prioritise (and which matter). This can lead to very arbitrary decision making, with developers following their intuition (or cherry-picking some principles) to balance the factors and call the outcome ethical because it fits a code of conduct from some specific perspective. Hedayati-Mehdiabadi (2022) also warns of this risk (although in an educational context) and encourages the application of multiple ethical frameworks to understand a situation more comprehensively.

Your chosen case study provides a good example of this: in the ACM's code of ethics, principle 1.3 states: "a computing professional should be transparent and provide full disclosure of all pertinent system capabilities, limitations, and potential problems to the appropriate parties". According to the case study, it seems that Corazon is opting to not fix the vulnerability which allows a device reset. Do you think that to be consistent with principle 1.3, Corazon has to disclose this to their customers, since they're directly affected by it? In the real world, it might not be sensible to disclose something of this nature, but the principle is still one to consider all the same.

**References**

Gogoll, J., Zuber, N., Kacianka, S., Greger, T., Pretschner, A. & Nida-Rümelin, J. (2021) Ethics in the Software Development Process: from Codes of Conduct to Ethical Deliberation. *Philosophy & Technology* 34: 1085–1108. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-021-00451-w

Hedayati-Mehdiabadi, A. (2022) How do Computer Science Students Make Decisions in Ethical Situations? Implications for Teaching Computing Ethics based on a Grounded Theory Study. *ACM Transactions on Computing Education* 22(3): 1-24. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3483841

**Peer Response 2**

**Context:** [**https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=314769**](https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=314769)

Hi Gennaro,

Thanks for your insightful post. Your recommendation brings up an interesting topic: ensuring that proposed solutions help the business not just meet ethical requirements, but make it possible to adhere to more of them. The recommendation fits well with the BCS code of conduct (BCS, 2022): by improving workplace culture through better escalation policies and reporting mechanisms, principle 1a would be followed because wellbeing for others is being taken into account, while better reporting would make sure that principle 3c is met because reporting would force those in authority to be held accountable. Principles 4a and 4b would also be met through the use of this approach.

In terms of the ACM code of conduct (ACM, n.d.), principle 1.2 would be met because reporting opens the door to reconciliation, thereby mitigating harm (or undoing it completely), but care must be taken to make sure that confidentiality is upheld throughout, so that principle 1.7 can be met. Principles 3.3 and 3.4 could also be met by doing this.

Recent literature also confirms the viability of this idea: Rasool et al. (2021) note that more organisational support improves employee engagement, which is important in this case because employees need to be willing to make use of the tools provided to them, so that the business can achieve ethical compliance. The only challenge, however, is determining how to deal with Max in this case: he is talented and will likely be difficult to replace. Should the business help him improve his behaviour if he doesn't make use of the new ideas, or should termination be considered?

**References**

ACM. (n.d.) ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Available from: https://ethics.acm.org/ [Accessed 26 June 2022].

BCS. (2022) BCS Code of Conduct. Available from: https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf [Accessed 26 June 2022].

Rasool, S., Wang, M., Tang, M., Saeed, A. & Iqbal, J. (2021) How Toxic Workplace Environment Effects the Employee Engagement: The Mediating Role of Organizational Support and Employee Wellbeing. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18: 1-17. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18052294