



Professionalism and Ethics Defined

Lecturer: Mark Gillan

PROFESSIONALISM

Teachers / Lecturers

Lawyers

Accountants

Bankers

Doctors



PROFESSIONALISM IN THE WORKPLACE

This includes

- Punctuality
 - Respecting deadlines
 - Maintaining a positive attitude
 - Dressing appropriately
- Example:
 - Attending meetings on time
 - Completing assigned tasks within the given timeframe
 - Maintaining a professional demeanour even under stress.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

- Cybersecurity professionals often work in teams
- Must be able to communicate technical information clearly and concisely
- Be able to communicate to both technical and non-technical audiences
- Being understood by non-technical colleagues

Example:

- Explaining complex security risks to a board of directors in a way they can understand.

PROBLEM SOLVING AND CRITICAL THINKING

- Cybersecurity professionals must be able to analyse complex problems
- Identify potential solutions
- Make informed decisions under pressure

Example:

- Responding to a ransomware attack by quickly assessing the situation
- Containing the breach
- Developing a recovery plan

ADHERENCE TO ETHICAL STANDARDS

- Cybersecurity professionals must uphold ethical principles that guide their actions
- This includes respecting intellectual property rights
- Avoiding conflicts of interest
- Refraining from malicious activities

Example:

- A cybersecurity analyst who discovers a vulnerability in a popular software should responsibly report it to the vendor instead of exploiting it for personal gain

CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

- The cybersecurity landscape is constantly evolving, so professionals must stay updated with the latest trends, technologies, and best practices

Example:

- Attending conferences
- Workshops
- Seminars
- Online courses to learn about emerging threats and countermeasures

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE: PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS

- While professionalism and ethics are closely related, they have distinct meanings.
- Professionalism focuses on the external behaviours and conduct of an individual
- Ethics focuses on the internal moral principles that guide their actions
- A professional cybersecurity expert will not only possess the technical skills but also adhere to ethical principles, ensuring the responsible use of their knowledge and abilities.



Ethics in Society: moment of thought and discussion

What is the benefit of ethics in society?

Why do we need guidance upon general ethics within society?

Who decides upon ethics?

Who determines what is ethical?

How does society receive guidance as to ethics?



ETHICS IS THE SCIENCE OF MORALS IN HUMAN CONDUCT

Unlike laws and codes of conduct which tell us how we **MUST** behave, ethics are concerned as to how we **SHOULD** behave.

Depends upon the consequence of our behaviour?

To lie is unethical, but is it always wrong to lie when we might hurt someone's feelings by telling the truth?



1

- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Accountability



CONFIDENTIALITY

- Cybersecurity professionals often have access to sensitive information, and they must keep it confidential.

Example:

- Not sharing customer data or proprietary information with unauthorised individuals

INTEGRITY

- Cybersecurity professionals must be honest and truthful in their work.

Example:

- Disclosing potential conflicts of interest
- Avoiding deceptive practices

RESPONSIBILITY

- Cybersecurity professionals have a responsibility to use their skills for good and to protect others from harm.

Example:

- Reporting security vulnerabilities to the appropriate authorities
- Taking steps to mitigate risks

FAIRNESS

- Cybersecurity professionals should treat everyone fairly and equitably, regardless of their background or status.

Example:

- Avoiding discriminatory practices in hiring, promotions, and other workplace decisions.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Cybersecurity professionals must be accountable for their actions and decisions.

Example:

- Taking responsibility for mistakes
- Learning from mistakes to prevent future errors