Cybersecurity Professionalism & Ethics Workshop

# Title Details

Workshop Title: Cybersecurity Professionalism & Ethics

Workshop (Intended) Length: 2 90-minute sessions

# Workshop Facilitator Details

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# Workshop Description Including Learning Objectives

Cybersecurity is commonly touted as highly technical and this is not entirely incorrect, but overshadows just how many careers are available and work to make the field we call Cybersecurity. This workshop is geared towards students who have a desire, curiosity, and/or goal to go into the field or related field for their college degree, or career path, and would like a more in-depth look at these other areas, what makes them different and how professionalism and ethics can get them started on that journey. The workshop covers 3 main areas:

1. Defining Professionalism
2. Defining Ethics
3. Why does it matter & what is my role?

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will have a better understanding of the various careers in cybersecurity that they may not have heard of. They will also have a understanding of the importance of professionalism and ethics in a field where it matters and is needed. Through this they will understand their responsibilities as an ethical professional in the field.

# Description of Target Workshop Audience

The target audience of this workshop are juniors and seniors in high school. Can be those interested in Cybersecurity but those outside of cyber can benefit

# Workshop Requirements

A/V – Projector, TV Screen, or similar projection technology

Materials – Pens, Pencils & papers (notebook)

Room: Regular auditorium / classroom setup

Participants: Laptop if possible

# Detailed Workshop Agenda

Cybersecurity: Professionalism & Ethics

* Ethics
  + Ethics? What Are They?
  + Does Ethics Have A Look?
  + Differing Ethics
  + Conflict (Prevention) & Resolution
  + Ethics & Professionalism
  + Activity: Ethics in the Workplace
* Professionalism
  + Defining Professionalism
  + Professionalism: What You Do
  + Building Professionalism
  + Your Public Appearance Follows…
  + Activity: Professionalism in Action
* We are glad to have you here!
* This workshop will be interactive, so be ready to talk, discuss, and work together!
* This workshop covers Professionalism & Ethics in the Cybersecurity Field as well as ways you may be able to apply it
* Our Agenda

Welcome!

Defining Professionalism

* We have to define professionalism before understanding it
  + What is it?
* Merriam-Webster defines it as “the conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person”
* Oxford Languages defines it as “the competence or skill expected of a professional”
* Our understanding can be highly technical or not
  + Neither is wrong
* However, it is on us to communicate professionalism in an easy to understand manner
  + The sooner the better

INSTRUCTOR NOTE(S): Take time (5-15 minutes) to discussion how students understand professionalism

Oxford Languages is Oxford Dictionary but they changed their name

Professionalism: What You Do

* For our workshop, professionalism is what we’ve previously defined as well as:

“What you do”

* A Few examples of this would be:
  + Codes of Conduct
  + Ethical Behavior
  + Commitment to the profession
  + Commitment to doing right by others
  + Our interactions
    - How so?
* What other skills would you consider a professional to have and display?
  + Publicly & behind the scenes
* Now that we’ve identified skills, how do we build them?
  + Clubs
  + Activities
  + Classwork
  + Athletics
* 7 Skills (starting out)
  + Curiosity
  + Critical Thinking
  + Collaboration
  + Discipline
  + Humility
  + Grit
  + Agency Under Duress
* Additionally
  + Diligence
  + Integrity
  + Stewardship
  + Trustworthiness

Building Professionalism

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Have students write out notes as well as discussing other skills. Facilitate and encourage discussions on the matter. Relate how their school life is building skills for their professional life. Allow them to talk about their own experiences

Source: Montreat’s 7 ELS & Professionalism & Ethics Course

Your Public Appearance Follows You

* Social Media
  + Yes, your social media
  + Is not “yours”
  + Is a way for employers and others to get to know/see you
* Your public appearance may proceed you
  + Remember to think before posting
  + Think before sharing
  + Think long-term
* Outside your online presence, your physical presence matters as well
  + Be confident & comfortable in your appearance!

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Refer to Thrive Center Attire Document, share with students as well as other resources from the Thrive center on professional dress and reading/understanding the room/situation

Source: Thrive Center

Activity: Professionalism In Action

* Divide into groups of [HOWEVER FOR THE SCENARIOS]
* You each will be given a scenario
  + Take 5-7 minutes to decide how to act out the scene
  + Scenes should be 5-10 minutes each [INSTRUCTOR DECISION]
* After acting out the scenario, lead the group in discussing how to proceed professionally given the situation

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Modify this to meet the needs and time constraints of the workshop

Welcome Back!

* We are excited to have you back!
* Professionalism is important, but so are ethics!
* You’ve heard of “work ethic”
  + But what if I told you all ethics are connected?
* Let’s see how and why that matters!

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Feel free to take time to review professionalism if needed or take time to begin to discuss how they relate to ethics

Ethics? What are they?

* Ethics, at it’s core, are how we identify and define what is right and wrong (or good and bad)
* These differ from Norms & Morals
  + Norms = standards of appropriate behavior
  + Morals = value judgments & principles about right and wrong in behavior
  + Ethics = rules (determined by us, society, etc.) on what is morally good or bad behavior
* Ethics are not something this is a given, we aren’t necessarily born with them.
* We decide, determine, build, maintain our ethics

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Feel free to use the additional worksheet here from Carnegie Council, it will require a laptop for additional research

Source: What Students Gain From Learning Ethics in School | KQED Ethics | Definition, History, Examples, Types, Philosophy, & Facts | Britannica Norms-Morals-and-Ethics-Worksheet\_2023-03-03-053240\_lmlv.pdf (carnegiecouncil.org)



Does Ethics Have A Look?

* Yes, YOU!
* More broadly, look around, is there anyone who you look up to?
  + What do they display that causes you to look up to them?
  + What skills have you developed because of them?
* Ethics includes:
  + Honesty
  + Integrity
  + Fairness
  + Respect
  + Responsibility
  + Confidentiality
  + Stewardship

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S):

Differing Ethics

* Most fields have some overarching ethical standard:
  + Medical Ethics vs. Legal Ethics vs. Research Ethics
* The catch us, all ethical standards point back to individual ethics
* Individual ethics may differ
  + This can be a source of conflict
* Remember ethics are developed through life experiences as well as societal rules
* Differing ethics does not automatically mean conflict, as long as both parties can discuss (similar to your exercise)

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Feel free to break into teams to research some standards and report back

Conflict (Prevention) & Resolution

* Conflict can arise from differing ethics
* Prevention of conflict depends on how we interact with each other and the workplace culture

Workplace Culture = The Workplace Environment (people, places, & job duties)

* One who is actively participating in the workplace, will have an understanding of those around them and the best way to communicate to minimize conflict
* Prevention depends on the relationship
* Resolution depends on the willingness to communicate and agree
* Golden Rule: “Are you fine with the decision impacting others, if it impacts you the same way?”

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Have students understand that ethics don’t always have to be good, so bad ethics can cause conflict, but resolution is dependent on the practices of good ethics.

Source: Frontiers | Ethical Conflict and Knowledge Hiding in Teams: Moderating Role of Workplace Friendship in Education Sector (frontiersin.org) (Golden Rule was modified from this)

Ethics & Professionalism

* Ethics + Professionalism = Shining You
  + For Conflict
  + For Skill Development
  + For Careers
* Especially in Cybersecurity
* The field requires the utmost trust
  + Why? Think about your data and the people behind it
* Frameworks (NIST, ISO, CISA, etc.) are built around ethics
* Jobs require professionalism

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): Time Permitting, go through a framework and relate it to ethics

Source: The Ethics of Cybersecurity (oapen.org) (Open-Access Book)

Professionalism & Ethics

* In the industry, your employer will have time to train you on tools
  + New software
  + Policies & Procedures
* Professionalism & Ethics
  + Is something you MUST develop on your own
    - START NOW
  + Is what will land you where you want to go (they’re looking for it)
  + Is what helps develop you skills
* Ethics are displayed in your professionalism
  + Prior to getting the job
  + After getting the job

Source: The Ethics of Cybersecurity (oapen.org) (Open-Access Book)

Activity: Ethics in the Workplace

* Given everything we have discussed and gone over
* Here is our final Activity
* Write (type) your response to the ethical dilemmas as a Service Provider

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S): You can have them discuss this out loud or not, entirely up to you

Source: The Ethics of Cybersecurity (oapen.org) (15.1.2 Dilemmas of Cybersecurity Service Providers)

Conclusion

* Thank you for attending this workshop!
* We hope that it was fun & engaging!
* Maybe even got you thinking about these two topics differently
  + If so, awesome!
* Take what you learned and apply it! You’ll be surprised how it impacts/helps in the long run!

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE(S):

**Closing: If you find a job you love, you’ll never work a day in your life. If you find your why, you’ll want to make it a part of your life.**

**You’ll find hardships, if you don’t it will find you. Above all, remember your ethics, morals, and be professional. Professionalism isn’t just about business it’s about being kind to one another regardless.**

# Workshop Resources/References

Additional Sources Available on Slides (as listed above)

<https://www.cyberseek.org/>

<https://dodcio.defense.gov/Cyber-Workforce/DCWF/>

<https://niccs.cisa.gov/workforce-development/nice-framework>