REFLECTION PAPER 1
CPTS 424 | FALL 2025

DUE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

NOTE: This should be written in essay form, using paragraphs and not bullet points.

NOTE ON USE OF AI: We will primarily be looking for an alignment between the type of moral injury mentioned, the cybersecurity pillar selected, and the ethical principle used – this will show that the student has thought through the case well enough to synthesize how these different considerations relate to one another. There is no need to use AI on any aspect of this paper and its use is discouraged. No additional research is needed, since this paper only requires a synthesis of class and group discussions. It is also only seeking information on how each student exercises their best judgment regarding the ethical issues in the case and highlights what the student thinks is important. This is a key skill for cybersecurity risk mitigation and one that will be the sole burden of the student in their careers moving forward. It is best to learn these skills prior to something bad happening. Students may of course use the STANDARD grammar and spell check offered in their preferred word processing software. However, we will not grade on spelling and grammar so long as it does not deeply interfere with our ability to understand the paper's content. Other course policies on AI apply.

PROMPT: In this class, we have been investigating the ways in which cybersecurity considerations can have a morally relevant impact on various stakeholders. We have appealed to Moral Foundations Theory to develop a broader understanding of 5 different categories of substantive moral injury. We have learned 5 key ethical principles for mitigating the risks posed by technology. And we have analysed the ways in which the 5 pillars of cybersecurity give rise to ethical concerns.

Students have been asked to apply these lessons to a case study on cybersecurity in U.S. elections. In this reflection paper, students are being asked to consolidate this new knowledge.

In a 3 page reflection paper – double spaced, 11 or 12 point font (preferably Times New Roman), with 1 inch margins – please do the following:

1. Start by writing a one paragraph Introduction beginning with one or two sentences explaining the topic of the paper (e.g., In this paper, I will discuss X *(where X is the broad topic of discussion).* X is important because… *(cite some key moral consideration)*). Then as a part of the Introduction, write an outline or roadmap of what will be accomplished in the paper (e.g., In the course of discussing X, I will first…..Second, I will….Third, I will…etc. Then I will conclude.) The roadmap should reflect how you'll address the following considerations:

2. Summarize the Case in about one short paragraph – What's the central problem?

3. Name and describe one key stakeholder (or group of stakeholders).

    a. Explain the stake they have in the problems associated with the case (i.e., why does it matter to them?)
    b. Specifically, describe the ways in which their interests are at risk. This should be accomplished through a discussion of just one category of moral injury identified by Moral Foundations Theory.
        i. Make sure to both describe the category itself in 2-3 sentences and then explain the actual moral injury and how it applies to the case.

4. Explain which of the 5 cybersecurity pillars is relevant to this case – select just one.
    a. Describe the selected pillar. What ethical issues emerge?
    b. The selected pillar should map to the category of moral injury. Then explain how the pillar is related to the moral injury.

5. Select and describe one of the 5 principles offered by Floridi and Cowls.
    a. Explain how the principle might provide some guidance on how to address the problems described above.

6. Conclude with a short paragraph that offers some criticism of the selected principle, and highlight one issue related to the case that seems unaddressed (e.g., the principle asks us to avoid harm but offers no guidance on how exactly to do that, so it might not work well as a practical principle.)