

CSCE 390 – Fall 2008

Case Study Discussion

NAME:

As an assignment in a computer security course, students are asked to break into a specified computer system and copy files from it as evidence that they have successfully done so. The owner of the system was unaware of the assignment.

- a. Alice broke into the system and copied the files.
- b. Bert did not break into the system but copied the files from Alice with her permission.
- c. Carl refused to complete the assignment because he did not think it was appropriate; he submitted an explanation instead of the files.
- d. Diane did not complete the assignment because she skipped class the day it was assigned and did not know about it.
- e. Ellen broke into the instructor's computer system instead of the assigned one and submitted files from that system.
- f. Fred did not break into the system but copied the files from Bert without his permission.

Comment on the actions of the students and the professor from an ethical standpoint. What would be appropriate actions for students placed in this position; what do you think you would have done?

Note: This situation has been adapted and expanded from one in Sara Baase, *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computers and the Internet*, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2003.