

Hackers Ethics

I was reading the news the other day and stumbled upon an article I thought would be an interesting topic for this week's blog on ethics. According to [bleepingcomputer.com](https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/ziggy-ransomware-shuts-down-and-releases-victims-decryption-keys/), the Ziggy ransomware group released a statement apologizing to the public for launching Ziggy Ransomware on their victims and decided to shut down their operation. In support of the claim, they released 922 deciphering keys and promised to return all money taken from the victims. The group decided to give up this campaign because the international law enforcements crack down on other ransomware groups and feeling guilty about their past actions. Was this ethical?

Another ransomware group known as Foxnix Ransomware Operation has also shut down its functions, apologizing to the public, released keys, and decryptors as well. As a part of their apology, they announced they would be launching an analytical website to use their abilities in positive ways. Was this an ethical?

What are ethics? Ethics are essentially morals, the rights, and wrongs, engrained into our brains through our parents, guardians, and our surrounding society. Does the Ziggy Ransomware Group have ethics, yes, they do; however, their ethics are different, more of a criminal style ethics different than what American society believes.

With this in mind and in my opinion, I do not believe Ziggy or Foxnix shutdown was in response to their ethics dramatically changing, I think the groups are more worried about going to jail. The reason I say this is if this groups ethics were so aligned then why event and implement something that would knowingly harm for financial gain? The answer is because their ethics are aligned to that of a criminal nothing more. When they sat down to do conduct their attacks do you think they were thinking of how their programs would harm someone? I would argue the answer as no, as I think they were thinking more of the financial gain.

What can you learn from this? Simple, when you sit down to make something technological you should be asking yourself ethical things like: What is this purpose of this thing, what harm will this thing inflict, does this collect data without permission, etc. If it harms, steals, or any other negative issue then you should not create or use it, because they should help rather than hinder.

References

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