Teaching Security

Cybersecurity Ethics Agreement

Background

In this class, you will begin learning how cybersecurity experts secure and defend complex computer systems. This sometimes involves learning about techniques and tools a malicious hacker might use to attack such a system or steal confidential data.

It is up to you to use this knowledge ethically. The agreement below is a commitment to use the skills you learn in this class responsibly, to protect computer systems and their users and not to harm them.

Agreement

I agree that:

1) I will use the cybersecurity knowledge and skills I gain in this class responsibly, for the protection of computing and information systems and the data they store or transmit. Specifically, I will:
   - Fully inform anyone who is allowing me access to a system they own or control, anyone I am providing cybersecurity assistance to, or anyone else who might be affected by my cybersecurity-related actions about:
     - What I am doing,
     - Why I am doing it, and
     - What the positive and negative consequences might be.
   - Tell my teacher about any security vulnerabilities I discover during class activities, or in using my cybersecurity skills outside of class.
   - Follow my school’s or district’s technology use/computer use policy (unless I am completing class activities where my cybersecurity teacher gives permission for a specific action that violates the policy).
   - Follow my school’s student code of conduct and obey the law when using my cybersecurity knowledge and skills.

2) I will not use my cybersecurity knowledge and skills in a way that damages any system or data, nor in a way that harms any person or organization. Specifically, I will not:
   - Share any private data/information I discover during class activities, or in applying my cybersecurity knowledge outside of class.
   - Share information about any security vulnerabilities I discover, except as instructed by my teacher.
   - Attempt security attacks or actions against any device in the school network unless specifically told to do so by my cybersecurity teacher.*
   - Attempt security attacks or actions against any device or system I do not own or do not have explicit permission to perform those specific attacks or actions against.*
• Give assistance or advice to anyone outside the context of my cybersecurity class about how to perform security attacks or actions against any device or system that I or they do not personally own.*

* Restricted security attacks and actions might include:
  o Probing or performing a scan for security vulnerabilities on a device or system.
  o Attempting to access, or attempting to root or elevate access privileges on, a device or system.
  o Attempting to access, copy, alter, delete, or block access to data on a device or system.
  o Any other action taken to interfere with the integrity or accessibility of a device or system.

3) **When making use of my cybersecurity knowledge and skills, I will exercise forethought and care, to prevent my actions from causing unintentional harm.** Specifically, I will *not*:

- Share my cybersecurity knowledge with anyone who I know or suspect intends to use it to cause damage or harm to devices, systems, digital data, persons, or organizations.
- Misrepresent my cybersecurity expertise, nor my authority to take cybersecurity-related actions or give cybersecurity advice.

I understand that violating this agreement will result in disciplinary action by my school, and could also result in civil or criminal penalties.

Student Name: ______________________________ Date: ____________________________

Student Signature: ______________________________

Parent Signature: ______________________________