

The Ethical Way: Company over Corruption

John D. Rockefeller said, "The man who starts out simply with the idea of getting rich won't succeed, you must have a larger ambition." Thus, my response to this opportunity should be aligned with the goals I have for my career. I must consider if the potential profit of my program, call it "Program X", is worth my reputation and my job position. Immense profit has an undeniable pull, but the ethical weight of the situation and the credit I owe to my employer are serious factors in this decision.

Four years with the company have placed me in a solid accounting position. Human resources mentioned last quarter that I am on the brink of promotion. Moving up within the company is important to me because I have built strong inter and intra-department relationships, and I receive satisfactory employment benefits. There is a high risk factor of pursuing Program X independently of the company, as it is well known that our CEO values integrity of product and conduct. If I am dismissed when the truth about the development of Program X is released, my family and I will be in a financially vulnerable position.

The branch of the company where I am employed is close-knit. My colleagues would be personally offended if I left the company with a product I developed while working alongside them. A decision to market Program X on my own would be a significant time commitment; if I decided to keep my current position while pursuing Program X, I would be taken away from my job responsibilities. Although my situation is not addressed in our employee handbook, neglecting my duties would certainly result in consequences.

Consulting with different friend led me to realize that the company has significant resources that could help Program X succeed on the market. Individually, I do not have the marketing capability, the capital, or the legacy of high quality software that my current company possesses. The thought of the company backing my product is comforting. Although my name may be left off of the final production of Program X, the personal recognition I would receive from the CEO is more beneficial to my career and position.

I feel a sense of accomplishment for the efficient and innovative nature of Program X. I am certain this feeling will diminish if I exclude the company from the Program X's release and profit. The company paid me for the time I spent developing Program X, and I used company property while creating it. I cannot deny these aspects of the situation, which leaves me to choose the honest route. I will present the program to the programming department with the hope of success within the company rather than pure personal gain.