



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



(An Autonomous Institution)

Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A+' Grade  
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

## DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

### ETHICS IN COMPUTING

I YEAR - II SEM

#### UNIT – I COMPUTER ETHICS AND HACKING

#### TOPIC – 9: ETHICAL POSITIONS ON HACKING

Ethical positions on hacking can vary depending on the context and the specific activities involved. Here are three common ethical positions:

**Ethical Hacking (White Hat Hacking):** Ethical hacking is conducted by individuals with permission and a legitimate purpose, often employed as cybersecurity professionals or consultants. They use their hacking skills to identify vulnerabilities in systems and networks, helping organizations improve their security. Ethical hackers follow legal and ethical guidelines, obtain proper authorization, and prioritize the protection of systems and data. Their intent is to enhance security, educate others, and contribute to the overall cybersecurity landscape.

**Hactivism:** Hactivism refers to hacking activities performed with the intention of promoting a social or political cause. Hactivists use their



hacking skills to raise awareness, challenge oppressive regimes, or advocate for certain ideologies. While some view hacktivism as a form of civil disobedience aimed at promoting transparency and accountability, others consider it unethical due to the potential for unauthorized access, disruption, or damage to systems and data.

**Malicious Hacking (Black Hat Hacking):** Malicious hacking involves individuals who engage in hacking activities for personal gain, malicious intent, or to cause harm. This includes activities such as stealing sensitive information, distributing malware, conducting fraud, or causing disruptions. Malicious hacking is widely considered unethical and illegal, as it violates the privacy, security, and rights of individuals and organizations.

It's important to note that the ethical positions on hacking are not universally agreed upon. Different individuals and groups may hold differing views based on their own moral, legal, and social perspectives. However, it is generally accepted that hacking activities should be conducted within legal boundaries, respect the privacy and security of others, and prioritize the overall well-being of individuals and society.