Astus d.o.o. - Code of Conduct

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1. Purpose & Scope

This Code of Conduct exists to ensure integrity, accuracy, independence, and respect across all operations of our cybersecurity news platform. It applies to all staff, contributors, freelancers, moderators, contractors, and anyone representing the organization publicly.

Our mission is to inform the public about cybersecurity, privacy, and digital risk without causing harm, panic, or exploitation.

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2. Core Principles

We commit to the following principles:

- **Accuracy over speed**
- **Public interest over sensationalism**
- **Ethics over exclusivity**
- **Quality over clicks**
- **Transparency over secrecy**

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3. Editorial Integrity

- Report information that is verified, well-sourced, and contextualized.
- Clearly distinguish between news, analysis, opinion, and sponsored content.
- Avoid exaggeration, fear-mongering, or misleading headlines.
- Promptly correct errors and clearly disclose corrections or updates.
- Do not publish unverified claims, leaked data dumps, or rumors without clear public-interest justification.

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4. Responsible Security Reporting

- Do not publish exploit code, step-by-step attack instructions, or sensitive technical details that could reasonably enable harm.
- Follow responsible disclosure principles when reporting on vulnerabilities:
  - Consider whether vendors have been notified.
  - Weigh public interest against potential real-world risk.
- Avoid naming vulnerable individuals or organizations unless there is a compelling public interest.

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5. Source & Data Protection

- Protect the confidentiality and safety of sources
- Do not solicit, store, or distribute stolen credentials, personal data, or classified material.

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6. Conflicts of Interest

- Staff and contributors may not accept gifts, payments, or favors in exchange for coverage.

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7. Independence & Advertising

- Editorial decisions must remain independent from advertisers, sponsors, and partners.
- Advertising, affiliate links, and sponsorships must never influence reporting outcomes.
- Any partnerships must align with our ethical standards and transparency policies.

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8. Community & Comment Standards

We foster informed, respectful discussion.

The following are not permitted:

- Harassment, hate speech, threats, or discrimination
- Doxxing or sharing private personal information
- Encouragement of cybercrime or hacking for harm
- Misinformation or conspiracy content presented as fact

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9. Professional Conduct

All representatives of the organization must:

- Treat colleagues, sources, and the public with respect
- Avoid abusive, discriminatory, or retaliatory behavior
- Uphold professional standards on social media and public platforms
- Never misrepresent identity or affiliation

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10. Legal & Ethical Compliance

- Comply with applicable laws related to journalism, privacy, copyright, and data protection.
- Respect embargoes, court orders, and lawful takedown requests.
- When legal and ethical obligations conflict, escalate concerns to editorial leadership.

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11. Enforcement

Violations of this Code may result in:

- Content removal or correction
- Suspension or termination of contributor privileges
- Internal disciplinary action
- Legal action where appropriate

All concerns may be reported confidentially to editorial leadership.

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12. Review & Updates

This Code of Conduct will be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in cybersecurity practices, journalism standards, and legal requirements.