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A letter to the leadership of DataCamp

As current and prospective instructors and contributors to DataCamp who have spent extensive time and energy in creating content for the DataCamp platform and promoting the DataCamp brand, we are writing to express our disappointment at DataCamp's mishandling of sexual misconduct. We have all learned of these incidents, either because we personally know someone targeted, we have read reports on sites like Glassdoor, or through our network in the data science community. Because we care deeply about fairness and safety, the data science community, and DataCamp itself, we are unable to cooperate with continued silence and lack of transparency on this issue.

Reputation and Community Impact

Although DataCamp has communicated to some instructors that there has been an investigation by the DataCamp board into sexual misconduct, major concerns remain. Most seriously for content creators, the situation has not been acknowledged adequately to the data science community, leading to harmful rumors and uncertainty. DataCamp is not doing the right thing by maintaining public silence on what has happened. This issue is increasingly having a negative impact on the broader data science community, especially among content creators who have been called on to answer questions and represent DataCamp as a brand. It is concerning that DataCamp seems to prefer losing high quality content from well-respected members of the community rather than showing leadership on this issue.

Moving Forward

Today we as instructors and content creators find ourselves in an untenable situation. Our names and reputations are used to promote DataCamp, but our principles and pedagogical objectives are in tension and even conflict with our obligations to DataCamp. Together we must ensure that everyone has safe learning and teaching experiences, and we as instructors cannot be part of a platform with unaddressed sexual misconduct issues. DataCamp has the opportunity right now to do the right thing, in particular, a public acknowledgment of past harm done (without identifying individuals), affirming that DataCamp does not tolerate sexual misconduct, and summarising the actions the company has taken to prevent further problems. There are multiple options available to DataCamp leadership for learning, growing, and moving forward, but none of them involve continued silence, lack of transparency, and the pretense that this issue of sexual misconduct has been adequately addressed.

Signed,





