

The Hand book of information and Cyber Ethic

Chapter12: Health information technology: challenges in ethics, science and uncertainty

Amazonlink:

http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1233037513&sr=1-1

What I expect to learn:

- The function of information technology in the medical society
- The challenges in ethics, science and uncertainty
- If health information technology is globally accepted

Quote:

“medical records usually contain a large amount of personal information, much of it quite sensitive. This information is continuous, extending from cradle to grave; it is broad, covering an extraordinary variety of detail; and, with new information technologies, it is accessible as never before.”

Book Review:

It is sadly and too often the case that many professionals regard ethics as a source of codes for the edification of the not-yet-virtuous, as a place where pointy-headed bowfins pass judgment on heathens, as an office to call in search of someone with a horse and a sword to come .round to smite the evildoers.

There is arguably no better trigger for reflection on morality and its relationship to the law and society than privacy and its cousin, confidentiality. The demands of privacy are intuitively straightforward and the consequences of its violation obvious

The chapter even included privacy in health information technology. Privacy is, most generally, as discussed in the chapter, the right entitlement or reasonable expectation people have that they are and will be secure from intrusion. Given the example in the chapter, it is obvious that society values both personal privacy and the law enforcement but in some cases, the police officer investigating a crime may and, in fact, must take steps to justify that her official need is worth the intrusion. “Put differently, privacy rights are not absolute, but may be balanced against other values. The same is

true for confidentiality, which applies to information—medical records, for instance. Where privacy is customarily about people, confidentiality applies to information about people. Privacy is also sometimes regarded as including within its scope people's concern about protecting confidentiality. Privacy is a broader concept.” – indeed as a broader concept yet privacy still serve as one of the most studied factor in information technology and one that is most protected.

Since we are talking here about health information, I can say that computers complicate medical privacy and confidentiality in interesting ways. According to a sentinel Institute of Medicine analysis, a number of entities demand patient information to “assess the health of the public and patterns of illness and injury; identify unmet.

What I have learned:

- I have learned what health information technology is
- That most people trust this technology because of private reasons
- The issues surrounding the medical and scientific world are as much important as their jobs

Integrative Question:

1. What is privacy?
2. What is confidentiality?
3. What is the difference of privacy and confidentiality?
4. What is health information technology?
5. What are the challenges of computer ethics?