

The Hand book of information and Cyber Ethic

Chapter13: Ethical issues of information and business

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 effects of ethics with information and business
- The ethical issues that information and business encounter

Quote:

“Before I can’t discuss why business has a strong influence on ethical issues of information. I need to lay the groundwork and explain why business have an interest in information. The aim of business organizations according to standard economic theory is the maximization of profits. Such organizations will, therefore, aim to minimize cost and maximize revenue. Information has a value for business if it can contribute to either of these aims. The business value of information is thus linked to financial gains it can achieve. This is independent of the philosophical debate in information ethics of whether information has an intrinsic value.”

Book Review:

Computers have changed the way offices are organized and the tasks done. They have changed manufacturing, purchasing, marketing, finance, and management. The ethical issues are therefore not simply issues that are involved in computers and their use and in information technology more broadly, but in the way business is done in the Information Age. We can distinguish five different kinds of ethical problems connected with information technology: 1 Ethical issues in the use of technology in business 2 Ethical issues in the information technology business 3 Ethical issues dealing with the Internet 4 Ethical issues in e-business 5 Ethical issues resulting from the impact of computers and information technology on society, both nationally and internationally The five are interrelated. Lurking behind all of them is the Myth of Amoral Computers and Information Technology. This is the widespread belief that computers and information technology have nothing to do with ethics. Computers, of course, are a type of machine and are not moral beings. But they are developed, programmed, and used by human beings. Nonetheless, “The computer is down” is often taken as a valid excuse, as if no one is to blame for this and no moral blame should be assessed.

The appropriate use of digital communications such as email and text messaging is another area that must be clearly understood by the employee and it is the employer's responsibility to set the guidelines. Many employees need to be taught that text based communications can be more often misinterpreted than spoken communications because other verbal and body language cues are not present.

What I have learned:

- In the IT side of business, knowing how to use a computer is important, but knowing your limitation is more important
- The moral norms involved in any sector of the society
- That it is the responsibility of employers to guide their employees on the proper use of information systems

Integrative Question:

1. How can IT help businesses?
2. What is morality?
3. Do businesses have their own set of moral standards?
4. How do businesses use ethics in their workplace?
5. Where do ethics as theory of morality plays an important role?