### HUM 4441 ENGINEERING ETHICS

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# PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT (PDPA) SINGAPORE

#### **PDPA**

- The PDPA establishes a data protection law that comprises various rules governing the collection, use, disclosure and care of personal data.
- It recognizes both the rights of individuals to protect their personal data, including rights of access and correction, and the needs of organizations to collect, use or disclose personal data for legitimate and reasonable purposes.

### **OBJECTIVES OF PDPA**

- Vast amounts of personal data are collected, used and even transferred to third party organizations for a variety of reasons. This trend is expected to grow exponentially as the processing and analysis of large amounts of personal data becomes possible with increasingly sophisticated technology.
- Hence, a data protection regime to govern the collection, use and disclosure of personal data is necessary to address these concerns and to maintain individuals' trust in organizations that manage data.
- By regulating the flow of personal data among organizations, the PDPA also aims to strengthen and entrench Singapore's competitiveness and position as a trusted, world-class hub for businesses.

## DEFINITION OF PERSONAL DATA ACCORDING TO PDPA

- "Personal data" means data, whether true or not, about an individual who can be identified
  - (a) from that data; or
- (b) from that data and other information to which the organization has or is likely to have access; [Section 2, Schedule 1, PDPA]

### HOW DOES PDPA WORK?

- The PDPA will ensure a baseline standard of protection for personal data across the economy by complementing sector-specific legislative and regulatory frameworks.
- This means that organizations will have to comply with the PDPA as well as the common law and other relevant laws that are applied to the specific industry that they belong to, when handling personal data in their possession.

### MAIN CONCEPTS OF PDPA

Consent

 Organizations may collect, use or disclose personal data only with the individual's knowledge and consent (with some exceptions);

Purpose

• Organizations may collect, use or disclose personal data in an appropriate manner for the circumstances, and only if they have informed the individual of purposes for the collection, use or disclosure;

Reasonableness

 Organizations may collect, use or disclose personal data only for purposes that would be considered appropriate to a reasonable person in the given circumstances.

### APPLICATION OF THE PDPA

- The PDPA covers personal data stored in electronic and non-electronic forms.
- The data protection provisions in the PDPA (parts III to VI) generally do not apply to:
  - Any individual acting in a personal or domestic basis.
  - Any employee acting in the course of his or her employment with an organization.
  - Any public agency or an organization in the course of acting on behalf of a public agency in relation to the collection, use or disclosure of the personal data. You may wish to refer to the Personal Data Protection (Statutory Bodies) Notification 2013 for the list of specified public agencies.
  - Business contact information. This refers to an individual's name, position name or title, business telephone number, business address, business electronic mail address or business fax number and any other similar information about the individual, not provided by the individual solely for his or her personal purposes.