**Unit 1 – Reflective Activity**

**Introduction**

The excerpt from the Stahl et al. (2016) paper underscores a common challenge in the field of computing ethics: the disconnect between theoretical discussions on ethics and actionable guidance for stakeholders. As a computing professional working for a company, I encounter various ethical issues, including data privacy, algorithmic bias, cybersecurity, and the societal impact of our products or services. In this response, I will focus on the ethical issue of data privacy and its impact on my role in the company.

**The Ethical Issue: Data Privacy**

Data privacy is a critical ethical issue facing computing professionals, particularly in industries that rely heavily on collecting and analyzing user data. Ensuring the privacy of user data is not only an ethical imperative but also a legal requirement in many jurisdictions. However, balancing the need for data-driven innovation with user privacy rights presents a significant challenge.

**Impact on My Role**

As a computing professional in my company, I am directly involved in the development and implementation of systems that collect, store, and analyze user data. My role requires me to navigate the complex ethical landscape of data privacy while fulfilling business objectives and technological requirements.

**Actions I Can Take**

1. **Educate Myself:** I will stay informed about the latest developments in data privacy laws, regulations, and ethical frameworks. By reading relevant literature, including papers cited in the Stahl et al. (2016) study, such as Himma and Tavani (2008) and Gotterbarn, Miller, and Rogerson (1999), I can gain a deeper understanding of different perspectives on data privacy and ethical considerations. Additionally, I will reference Chapter 1 of Bott's (2014) book "Professional Issues in Information Technology" to explore foundational concepts related to professional responsibility and ethical issues in IT, including legal and ethical frameworks governing data privacy.
2. **Advocate for Ethical Practices:** Within my company, I will advocate for the adoption of ethical principles in the design and implementation of computing systems. I will encourage my colleagues to consider the ethical implications of their work and provide actionable advice on how to address them. By fostering a culture of ethical awareness, we can promote responsible data handling practices throughout the organization.
3. **Implement Privacy-Enhancing Technologies:** I will actively seek to incorporate privacy-enhancing technologies into our products and services. This may include using encryption techniques to protect sensitive user data, implementing data anonymization methods to minimize the risk of re-identification, and adopting privacy-preserving algorithms for data analysis. By integrating these technologies into our systems, we can enhance user privacy while maintaining the functionality and utility of our products.
4. **Engage with Stakeholders:** I will collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including legal experts, policymakers, and user advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive strategies for addressing data privacy concerns. By engaging with these stakeholders, we can ensure that our data handling practices align with legal, social, and professional standards. Additionally, soliciting feedback from users and incorporating their perspectives into our decision-making processes will help build trust and transparency.

**Justification and Impact**

By taking these actions, I demonstrate my commitment to ethical computing practices and mitigate the risks associated with data privacy violations. Implementing privacy-enhancing technologies and engaging with stakeholders not only protect user privacy but also enhance our company's reputation and trustworthiness. Moreover, complying with relevant legal and regulatory requirements reduces the likelihood of facing legal sanctions or reputational damage due to non-compliance.

**Conclusion**

As a computing professional working for a company, I play a crucial role in addressing ethical issues such as data privacy. By educating myself, advocating for ethical practices, implementing privacy-enhancing technologies, and engaging with stakeholders, I can contribute to the development of responsible computing systems and uphold legal, social, and professional standards. This proactive approach not only benefits users and society but also ensures the long-term success and sustainability of our company.

**References**

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