Examine how one or more of the ethical issues mentioned affect your role in the company and what actions you would need to/can take, include references to other papers. Highlight the impact your actions would have on applicable legal, social and professional issues.

The most dominant ethical issue mentioned by Stahl et al (2016) was that of privacy. Privacy is a fundamental human right and is mentioned in Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights (Sagittae, 2023). There is also a UK Human Rights Act (Human Rights Act, 1998). The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) is focused on data protection, and in two articles sets out the requirements for a data breach notification (Holt et al, 2020). Any accidental or intentional destruction of data, data loss, and any unauthorized access to data, would be defined as a data breach (Holt et al, 2020). Article 33 of the GDPR states that once a data breach is detected then the requirement is to report the data breach to the supervisory authority within 72 hours (Holt et al, 2020). Article 33 also states that it should only be reported if there is a perceived risk (Holt et al, 2020).

As a technology manager, responsible for Human Resources (HR) systems in a bank, any potential data breach would have to be escalated to technology management, Human Resources management, Compliance and also the company's data protection officer. Compliance would also then notify legal. As an example, during testing of a HR system, with a vendor, as part of a cloud migration, employee names and addresses maybe accidentally shared with the vendor without encryption and masking or without data anonymization. In this scenario, although the vendor may have identified the

issue straight away, and deleted the files, the ethical and professional question would be should this be classified as a potential data breach and escalated or not?

Professionalism is a key component of the ethics of computing, and enables ethics to be implemented in a practical way within computing (Stahl et al, 2016). Ethical expectations are expressed as a set of guidelines or codes of conduct. Technologists should be adhering to the ethics as defined by the British Computing Society (BCS, 2022) and also the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM, 2023). Both the BCS and the ACM have documented guidelines.

In the above scenario, based on the following BCS and ACM guidelines, the potential data breach should be escalated and reported to Compliance straight away, although the risk of a data breach may be perceived to be low, any potential issues should be internally reported to the correct team, the company data protection officer should also be notified.

The BCS and ACM guidelines which are relevant for this scenario are:

BCS Code of Conduct

1a. Public Interest

'Have due regard for …. Privacy'

3a. Duty to Relevant Authority

'carry out your professional responsibilities …. In accordance with the Relevant Authority's Requirement'

3e. 'NOT withhold information on the performance of … systems or services'

<u>ACM Code of ethics and Professional Conduct</u>

1.2 Avoid Harm

'A computing professional has an additional obligation to report any signs of system risks'

1.3 Be Honest and Trustworthy

'A computing professional should be transparent and provide full disclosure of …. all potential problems to the appropriate parties'.

1.6 Respect Privacy

'This requires taking precautions to prevent re-identification of anonymized data …., and protecting it from unauthorized access and accidental disclosure'.

In conclusion, reporting a potential incident, even if the risk exposure could be classified as low is the correct thing to do, from a professional and ethical perspective. In addition, steps should be taken to ensure that this type of data breach doesn't happen again, by putting in place for example an automatic control which checks that files being sent outside the company are encrypted.

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