



Unit 1: Reflection

Course: MSc Computer Science

Module: Object-Oriented Information Systems

Assignment: ePortfolio

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Student ID: 126853

Reflection:

Unit 1 of the Object-Oriented information systems module provided a brief introduction to the usage of information systems and the potentially catastrophic consequences when they occasionally go wrong.

The required reading for this unit contained two extreme cases of information systems failure, particularly regarding hospitals 'reviving' dead patients (Barrett, 2003) and the US prison system releasing prisoners early (BBC, 2015). From this, I have gathered a better understanding of the need to ensure systems are regularly audited and tested, especially in 'mission critical' situations such as these.

These two articles provided a level of inspiration for the Collaborative Learning Discussion regarding Information Systems Failures, where I was required to identify a specific incident and consider the overall impacts of the failure. For this discussion, I chose to discuss the November 2020 downtime across the AWS infrastructure. This particular Information System failure had a sizeable worldwide impact (With big websites such as Adobe, Coinbase and Washington Post all being unavailable) (Peters & The Verge, 2020). This has demonstrated that businesses should attempt to use a multi-vendor/region setup or utilise a hybrid cloud approach to minimise downtime.

This unit has provided me with an overall introduction to the fundamental concepts of Information Systems, highlighting the need to ensure that they are reliable and consistent.

References:

BBC (2015) US Prisoners Released Early by Software Bug.

Barrett, L. (2003) Hospital Revives its Dead Patients

Peters, J & The Verge. (2020) Prolonged AWS outage takes down a big chunk of the internet. Available From: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/11/25/21719396/amazon-web-services-aws-outage-down-internet> [Accessed 10th May 2021].