Launching into Computer Science May 2021

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« Unit 1-3 Discussion Forum

Michael Botha

Initial Post

105 days ago

6 replies

Last 100 days ago

Upon perusing the required reading, my experiences are prominently at the forefront of my mind. I have read various codes of conduct and experienced a multitude of standards implementations. In general, I believe that lengthy legal jargon never quite hits the "sweet-spot" when required to strike a balance between productivity, efficiency, accuracy, and the interest of all the parties involved. A few key features which I believe are required to align all employees' attitude and ability with what is required of them by a business, and the relevant governmental laws, are listed below:

- A strong focus on promoting the required culture. Legalities are difficult for non-legal-focused individuals who want to get on with their job, whereas culture creates a mindset which inherently promotes correct behaviour.

- Training interventions are key.

- Systems must be put into place to protect all the parties. Such systems may follow principles like separation of duties, supervision, work review, and regular auditing.

Incident management is a crucial part of life in general, but in the workplace management techniques should be documented and again, awareness of such raised. Recently I needed to implement an application on new hardware being installed for a customer within my organisation. I insisted that the correct level of user privileges be set, and the threat vectors be mitigated through technical measures. This was not taken very seriously by the responsible parties. When reading the GDPR and similar legal documents, one clearly sees the responsibility that rests on IT professionals. Therefore, I would propose further awareness of regulations take place within my organisation, and of the tools that are provided to individuals to meet the relevant needs.

Please let me know your thoughts ?

283 words

Reply

Maximum rating: 👍 (1)

6 replies

1   Post by **Stelios Sotiriadis**

104 days ago

Re: Initial Post

Hi Michael,

Many thanks for your post and for sharing your thoughts. In the future, I will sug-
gest using online sources (mainly academic) to support your arguments. Overall
very good discussions.

Further to your discussion, could you please clarify: Why training interventions
is a key requirement?

Thanks,

Stelios

48 words

Reply

Rate:

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❓

2   Post by **Michael Botha**

103 days ago

Re: Initial Post

Thank you for your comments Stelios, I agree that I need to be more thorough
in future to be able to substantiate me points. I will aim to achieve this - for now
please accept the below response to your question, without references.

Training is essential for two key reasons: awareness and skills development.
With regards to codes of conduct, and legalities which govern our profession,
individuals and groups need to be made aware of how these governing factors
apply to everyday operations. Furthermore what business tools, and systems
have been put in place to ensure all parties are legally protected, and promote
the best operational activities. Legal documents such as policies and proced-
ures need to be explained. Awareness is not enough, training is critical to up-
skill individuals to be able to achieve the required outputs, aligned with a
person's Job Description and mandated requirements. Technical training (and
certification) for instance may enable one to provide better security configura-
tions aligned with industry, and manufacturer specifications; and best practices.

168 words

Reply

Maximum rating: -

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3   Reply to   **Michael Botha** from **Rachel Doherty** ↑

                                                                              103 days ago

Peer Response: I agree - training is key!

> Hi Michael,
> I found your post very insightful and I completely agree that training individuals
> and that managing the expectations and understanding of the different levels of
> the organisation can only help to achieve business continuity and avoid roadb-
> locks/ false launches or rollouts of updates where non-technical staff are also
> involved.
>
> I think you might find this article useful too (I came across it in my
> reading): https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S026840121830
> 3451
>
> Can I ask what your role is? I'm very interested to read your further posts to see
> if how you apply things learned here directly in the workplace.
>
> Thank you!
>
> Rachel
>
>   *98 words*

Reply

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4   Reply to   **Rachel Doherty** from **Michael Botha** ↑

                                                                              100 days ago

Re: Peer Response: I agree - training is key!

> Thanks for the reply and recommended article Rachel. I'm just a
> Telecommunications/ICT technician. It is a very busy environment, but can be
> helpful to get a fuller picture of data creation and flow; although I'm unfortu-
> nately not very specialised on any one particular technology, which can be
> limiting.
>   *48 words*

Reply

Maximum rating: -

5   Reply to   **Michael Botha** from **Neelam Pirbhai-Jetha** ↑

102 days ago

Peer Response

> Hi Michael,
> Your post is very interesting, and I agree with you. Training is extremely import-
> ant, especially to understand the "lengthy legal jargon" as you pointed out.
>
> *26 words*

Reply

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6   Post by **Ian Wolloff**

101 days ago

Re: Initial Post

> Agree with the comments that training is the key along with full engagement with all
> levels of an organisation, not just selected teams or people. You cannot do something
> like GDPR for example without bringing along the whole organisation as otherwise you
> find you get into the someone else's problem scenario. GDPR was a prime example of
> this. While any sufficiently large corporate body will have a Data protection officer this
> may not always be the same as the DPO defined in the GDPR(Anon) This does not
> mean that responsibility for the corporate data policy rests with them alone. Without
> the education and engagement of all the entire workforce of the company / organisa-
> tion informing them what is changing with the introduction of the new legislation, why
> it is changing and how it affects them and their role you will always have difficulty's im-
> plementing the change. Which at best could mean resistance and resentment from
> staff or at worse falling foul of the new rules and opening the organisations up to legal
> penalty's
>
>
> This employee engagement from my own experience can be achieved through a num-
> ber of methods there are the traditional face to face methods such as the regular
> meetings staff will have with their team leader / manager. It can also be merged into
> corporate governance strategies. For example for new members of staff we do this as
> part of their induction process for existing staff they already have a number of mandat-
> ory assessments in a year "Fire Safety","Anti-Fraud and corruption" etc so we built a
> GDPR one into this set to bring everyone up to speed with GDPR.

This organisational Education and engagement also acts as a catalyst for change. In my organisation for example we used the GDPR legislation as a reason start a piece of work in IT and the wider business areas to look at all the data held by the organisation and to start the process of setting proper data retention and destruction policies based on what is actual needed to be legally held rather than the old default of keep everything as it may be needed one day. It has also forced us to look at where the data was being held with the growth of SAAS solutions this is not always as clear cut as it was before cloud. So taking a corporate wide bottom up approach can have advantages.

References

What are the responsibilities of a Data Protection Officer (DPO)? | European Commission. [Online]. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/reform/rules-business-and-organisations/obligations/data-protection-officers/what-are-responsibilities-data-protection-officer-dpo_en [Accessed 10 May 2021].

421 words

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OLDER DISCUSSION

NEWER DISCUSSION

Initial Post

Summary Post (Units 1-4)