

Computer Ethics. Assignment 1.
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A well-defined and respected set of ethical guidelines in computer classrooms and labs is incredibly important. This set of rules acts as a foundation, guiding how people behave in these learning environments. It helps ensure that everyone treats each other and technology with respect and responsibility. However, currently there is no defined code of ethics for computer labs in UBD. Below is some of the information I gathered on computer ethics that is relevant to our classrooms and labs. The points highlighted in this paper are users are expected to not install unauthorized software on the lab computers, the lab resources are only used for educational purposes, computers users should log out from the computer system after using and all users should keep the computer lab clean.

It is crucial to respect the equipment in the computer room. Individuals should treat computer hardware, software, and peripherals with care and respect. Creating or utilizing software that intrudes upon, harms, or modifies computer systems or software is strictly prohibited (Kershner, n.d.). Computer users should not install or use unauthorized software on lab computers. This is because harmful code such as trojans and spyware can be concealed within seemingly legitimate looking packages using various software and programs (Kumar et al., 2012). A potential outcome could be that a malicious attacker gains remote control over an organization's internal network or acquires sensitive user data through a spyware application (Kumar et al., 2012). Due to this, it is important to only download software that is approved by the lab administrators.

Students should use the lab resources for educational or research purposes only. Avoid excessive consumption of resources like bandwidth, storage, and processing power. Engaging in non-work-related internet activities, particularly resource-intensive actions such as high-resolution graphics, video clips, video and audio streaming, and peer-to-peer file sharing, can lead to congestion in digital networks and bandwidth (Rensleigh, 2002). Having a slower internet bandwidth can hinder the learning experience for fellow students as well as for basic administrative purposes (Bleiberg, 2019).

Computer users must have the habit of logging out of their accounts and computer system when they're done using a workstation. Exercise caution as your actions might be monitored, and it's advisable to avoid performing confidential tasks like online banking; crucially, ensure thorough logout to prevent other users from accessing your accounts and data (Total defense, 2019). This prevents unauthorized access to your accounts.

Lastly, it is important for all computer lab users to keep the room clean. It is prohibited to eat or drink in the room. This is because accumulation of food and dust particles on the keyboard or mouse can obstruct moving components, causing them to become inoperative; users might have experienced keys jamming or, conversely, finding it challenging to press them (Labs IT

Serviss, 2020). Thus, these unhygienic conditions might reduce the productivity of the students or other users as well as making them feel less comfortable.

References:

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