Ethical Issues

* **Moral issues:** factors that define how individual act and behave
* **Code of conduct:** a voluntary set of rules that define the way in which individuals and organisations will behave
* **Unauthorized access:** when computer systems or data are used by people who are not the intended users
* **White Hat Hacker:** someone who hacks into systems with good intentions, often to highlight vulnerabilities
* **Black Hat Hacker:** someone who hacks into systems illegally with malicious intent
* **Grey Hat Hacker:** someone who hacks to test themselves; not malicious, but not always legal

# Relevant Laws

## Data Protection Act

Data must be:

* fairly and lawfully processed
* processed for limited purposes
* adequate, relevant, and not excessive
* accurate
* not kept longer than necessary
* processed in accordance with the data subject’s rights
* secure
* not transferred to countries without adequate data protection.

## Computer Misuse Act

**Data misuse:** using data for purposes other than for which it was collected.

This Act primarily prevents hacking, and contains three offences:

* Unauthorised access to computer programs or data (e.g. breaking through firewalls, decrypting files, or stealing another user’s identity).
* Unauthorised access with further criminal intent (where there is a clear intention to carry out a further criminal act, e.g. fraud or copyright breach).
* Unauthorised modification of computer material (e.g. falsifying bank details or exam grades, spreading viruses that corrupt programs and data, interfering with program files).

## Copyright, Designs and Patents Act

Creators of certain materials have control over how they are used, such as copying adapting and renting them.

## Other relevant acts

## The Official Secrets Act prevents the disclosure of government data relating to national security.

## The Defamation Act prevents people from making untrue statements about others which will lead to their reputation being damaged.

## The Obscene Publications Act and the Protection of Children Act prevent people from disseminating pornographic or violent images.

## The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations provides regulation on the correct use screens and is a specific addition to the Health and Safety at Work Act, which contains more general regulation on keeping employees safe.

* The Equality Act makes it illegal to discriminate against anyone of the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, disability, or age. This includes the dissemination of derogatory material.