**Reflective activity - Ethics in Computing**

In the context of the survey on ethics in computing by Stahl (2016), the computing professional will based on a healthcare provider/hospital based in the United Kingdom. In the healthcare sector, the importance of cybersecurity is significantly greater than in numerous other industries. Patient records in healthcare encompass extremely sensitive information, such as personal details, financial data, and health diagnoses. If these data are compromised, it can pose serious problems for patients.

Furthermore, cybersecurity attacks in healthcare not only lead to business interruptions but can also result in delays in providing essential patient care.

For this reason, three key ethical issues will be examined that affect a computing professional in a healthcare provider namely privacy, trust, and consent. The significance of these three ethical issues is that they can be inter-dependent and are pillars of ethical issues in the healthcare sector.

In essence, these ethical issues link together because at the core of the healthcare system lies the foundation of trust. Patients must have confidence that healthcare provider genuinely prioritise their well-being. During medical consultations, patients frequently divulge personal information they might not confide in anyone else. It is essential for them to believe that the healthcare provider will not compromise their privacy to unauthorised parties, such as nosy relatives, pharmaceutical companies, or other medical professionals, without the explicit consent of the patient.

One of the key actionable steps is to adhere to the British Computer Society (BCS) code of conduct . The BCS (2022) code of conduct states that computer professionals affiliated with the BCS should behave in a manner that avoids generating or infringing upon any social, ethical, or legal concerns within the IT profession. It is crucial for them to be vigilant and knowledgeable about how they interact with clients and peers. This awareness is vital not only for nurturing professional relationships but also for safeguarding private data.

The ACM (2018) has developed a code of ethics for computing professionals, which serves as a guide for making decisions in the field. Key ethical principles include computing professionals to be honest and trustworthy, and to respect privacy and honor confidentiality.

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Code of Ethics delineates the essential aspects of each member's dedication to ethical professional behaviour. It articulates fundamental principles that contribute to the betterment of society and human welfare, encompassing both general considerations and those directly associated with professional duties, organizational necessities, and adherence to the code (ACM, 2018).

In a legal point of view, The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a comprehensive data privacy regulation that came into effect in the European Union (EU) on May 25, 2018. It is designed to enhance the protection of individuals' personal data and privacy by imposing strict rules on how organizations collect, store, process, and share personal data. These aspects include consent, data subjects rights, data security, and notification of data breaches, in essence, these provide guiding principles on the ethical issues of privacy, trust, and consent.

The GDPR guidelines establish strict standards for acquiring permission from individuals to process their data. This consent must be voluntary, specific, knowledgeable, and clear. Requests for consent should be clearly separate from other topics and communicated in easily understandable language. Individuals can revoke their consent at any time, and this choice must be honoured. Changing the legal grounds for processing without valid justification is not allowed. Children under 13 can give consent only if they have parental approval. It's crucial to retain documented proof of obtained consent. In addition, The GDPR acknowledges numerous fresh privacy rights for data subjects, intending to grant individuals greater authority over the data they provide to organisations. For healthcare service providers, it's crucial to comprehend these rights to guarantee GDPR compliance.

**References**

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