LSEPI Analysis

Recording Data Issues

One of the first issues with the specification that was identified was a fitness or activity tracker would require the use of data that is being recorded. This would include data on sleep patterns, diet and exercise. The user who would be using the app would be unable to identify who is using the data and what it is being used for. Therefore, this sensitive data needs to be recorded with informed consent from the user. It would have to be made clear to the user what type of data is being recorded and what it will be used for and who will be able to access it.

A journal called Implementing the regulations states that "under the GDPR, clear privacy notices are required to highlight to individuals that they are giving personal data and that may have an effect on their privacy, thus allowing them to make an informed decision on whether they consent to allow their data to be stored and used." (Claire Laybats, 2018). This means that before the app can be used by a user, GDPR declares that the user must be told what their data is being used for and who it will be used by before giving informed consent.

Storage of Sensitive Data

The type of data that is being stored is sensitive this means that it will need to be protected from being accessed by unauthorised users. If accessed this could cause distress to the people who have had their data accessed they may take up civil action, the reputation of the app would be damaged and a negative outlook would be made on the application as well also fines or penalties may be given as a result of the breach.

An example of a data breach would be Facebook who was given a fine for "two breaches of the Data Protection Act. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) concluded that Facebook failed to safeguard its users' information and that it failed to be transparent about how that data was harvested by others" (Alex Hern, 2018) they were fined £500,000 for their part in the Cambridge analytical scandal. Facebook acquired the data of millions of people without their consent and used it for political advertising.

Inaccuracy of Data Recorded

Another issue is, the data that is being recorded may be inaccurate as the application requires the user to input their pain experience for the day they may input data that is not valid for that day, and based on this pain level and the data recorded the application will try to aid the users specifically who the app was designed for, those who suffer from rheumatoid arthritis or similar diseases. This is a concern as the developer of the application will have no medical experience also the self-help provided from the application will be based on the inaccurate data. The developer needs to ask a medical professional to help with the aid that is provided from the app and to make sure that it is accurate and will benefit the user.

"The stakes are particularly high for health data, as inappropriate handling of health information can inflict … psychological or subjective harm" (Arora, 2019) as stated by the article if self-help data identified the application is incorrect and is used by the patient it may lead to harm either in a physical or psychological way. Therefore, the designer should have a professional within the medical area within their team to make sure that information being provided is correct.

Third-Party Access

Thirdly, the data that will be accessed will be from the recording of a tracker, for example, a Fitbit. The service will have terms and condition when it comes to allowing third parties to access the data that is collected by them as this data is protected data, they will not let just anyone have access to it.

Fitbit states to people who use third part applications with their Fitbit that "You acknowledge that any Third-Party Services that you use in connection with the Fitbit Service, such as third party applications accessed on Fitbit devices, are not part of the Fitbit Service and are not controlled by Fitbit, and you take sole responsibility and assume all risk arising from your interaction with or use of any Third-Party Services." (Fitbit)

References

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