Summary Post

by Anastasia Rizzo - Wednesday, 24 May 2023, 3:51 AM

I would like to express my gratitude to Piotr Sieminski and Dominic Lambert for their thought-provoking comments on my post, which opened up an interesting discussion. In response to their points and considering my own perspective, I would like to offer the following overall conclusion.

Sieminski (2023) raised a valid question about the availability of alternative means, such as using laptops, to access data during Hurricane Katrina. It's worth noting that during that time, the reliance on cloud storage was not as prevalent as it is today. While VPN access rights and cloud computing have become more common now, in 2005, the destruction caused by the hurricane, including power outages and communication infrastructure damage, severely limited the ability to access patient data, hindering immediate care provision.

Lambert (2023) brought up an important clarification regarding the article I referenced. He correctly highlighted that the failing healthcare system mentioned in the Rodrigez et al. (2006) article was not directly attributed to Hurricane Katrina but rather referred to pre-existing issues. The term "infrastructure" in the context of the article likely encompassed public services and national infrastructure, not solely IT systems. The significant costs incurred during Hurricane Katrina were mainly related to the destruction of facilities, as highlighted by sources such as the BBC-Bitesize website and the Voice of America (VOA).

Both Sieminski (2023) and Lambert (2023) emphasised the importance of disaster recovery planning and the need to address various aspects beyond IT systems alone. They highlighted the challenges faced in terms of communication, infrastructure, and the unpredictability of catastrophic events. I concur with their observations and believe that effective disaster preparedness requires comprehensive planning that accounts for a range of factors, including infrastructure, communication, and healthcare facilities.

In conclusion, the examples provided in my initial post and the subsequent comments demonstrate the significant consequences that information system failures can have on industries such as healthcare. It is essential for organisations to prioritise robust cybersecurity strategies, backup systems, and disaster recovery planning to prevent or mitigate the impact of such incidents. By investing in these measures, organisations can protect the integrity and security of their systems and data while safeguarding the trust and confidence of their stakeholders.

References

Sieminski , P. (2023) Re: Initial Post. Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=157526#p240616 [Accessed 23 May 2023].

Lambert, D. (2023) Re: Initial Post. Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=157526#p240668 [Accessed 23 May 2023].

Cerise, F. (2010) Hurricane Katrina and the Health System: Lessons Learned. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, 4(S1), S12-S14.

Devadass, L., Sekaran, S.S. and Thinakaran, R., 2017. Cloud computing in healthcare. International Journal of Students' Research in Technology & Management, 5(1), pp.25-31. [online] Available at: ijsrtm.2017.516-pg-25-3120191229-95916-1xgoyey-libre.pdf (d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net) Accessed: May 23, 2023

VOA. (2009, October 30). Hurricane Katrina: Plans, decisions and lessons learned. Voice of America (VOA News). https://www.voanews.com/a/a-13-2005-09-16-voa63-67541507/285971.html Accessed May 23, 2023.

Zolnikov, T. R. (2018). A humanitarian crisis: Lessons learned from hurricane Irma. American Journal of Public Health, 108(1), 27–28. [online] Available at: https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304192 Accessed May 11, 2023.