How has IT has affected our life?

How the existing laws are protecting the different parties.
Suggest possible solutions for above problems.

Agenda

- IT has improved our lives

- IT has negatively affected our lives

- Laws protecting employees

- Laws protecting employers

- Possible solutions

Information Technology

- Discuss how IT has affected our life POSITIVELY:
  - **Job Propects**
  - **Flexible Hours**
  - **Virtual Office**
  - **Enhancing Relationships**
  - **E-Commerce**
  - **Information**
  - **Self-Expression**
  - **IT Services**

IT has improved our lives - Job Prospects

- ## Online Recruitment

- Online recruitment uses the power of the internet to match people to jobs.

- A specialist software provider, can develop bespoke application program for recruiters that will save time, effort and money.

- They can automate the pre-selection process by setting 'killer questions' (that only the top candidates will answer correctly), profiling and scoring, psychometric tests and automatic CV scans to look for key words such as qualifications and experience.

IT has improved our lives - **Job Prospects**

- Examples - eRecruitment on:
  - **Myjob.mu**
  - **Linkedin.com**

IT has improved our lives - **Job Prospects**

- The IT industry employs millions of people worldwide.

- In Mauritius the total number of ICT Workforce is **12, 360**.

- Also, the percentage of business using computers: 93%
- *(Source of Statistics: Mauritius ICT Indicators Portal, ICT Manpower (2009))*

- Hence, we can say that having IT education improves one's employability.

IT has improved our lives - Flexible Hours

- Flexi time at work has now become the talk of the town as it has a positive impact on the economy.

- With this mechanism flexi-time, more jobs are created on the market and enable a person to earn more than one salary at a time.

IT has improved our lives - Flexible Hours

- In an article in the l'express newspaper, Sandrine Verriez the director of Sedeco asserted that with the introduction of virtual office people will be to get a job **even if they are geographically far.**

- Young mothers can work while raising their children at home.

    - [http://lexpress.mu/services/archivenews-14740-travailler-sans contrainte-de-temps-ou-d-espace.html](http://lexpress.mu/services/archivenews-14740-travailler-sans-contrainte-de-temps-ou-d-espace.html)

    - [http://lexpress.mu/services/epaper-121728-b-chiffres-du-teletravail b.html](http://lexpress.mu/services/epaper-121728-b-chiffres-du-teletravail-b.html)

    - [http://lexpress.mu/services/epaper-121730-b-travailler-sans-contrainte de-temps-ou-d-espace-b.html](http://lexpress.mu/services/epaper-121730-b-travailler-sans-contrainte-de-temps-ou-d-espace-b.html)

Virtual Office

- A virtual office is a set of interconnected tools that centralize organizational, communication and collaboration data, accessible through different channels at any time

Virtual Office

The benefits of a virtual office are many.

●For instance, many overhead costs, such as electricity are cut out or kept to a minimum for the company with virtual employees.

●Telecommunicating also eliminates crowded offices. As an added benefit, the virtual employee may agree to lower pay in exchange for the ability to work out of his home.

●The virtual employee is able to work without the distractions of a busy office. He won't be interrupted by a coworker's phone calls, office gossip, or a last minute meeting

Virtual Office - Advantages
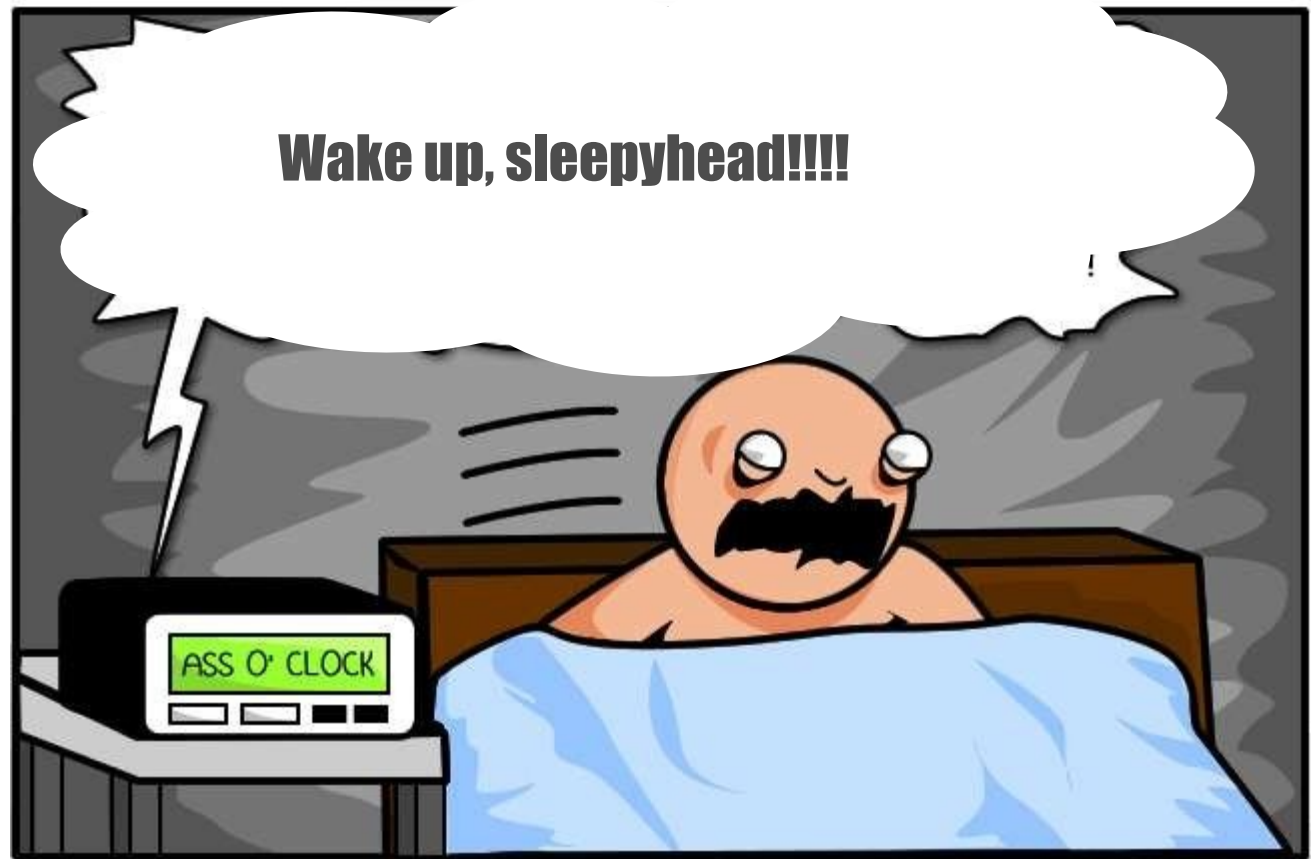
Virtual Office - Advantages

Virtual Office - Advantages

Virtual Office - Disadvantages

Virtual Office - Disadvantages

Virtual Office - Disadvantages

IT has improved our lives

- **Enhancing Relationships**
  - Social Networking websites like Facebook permit users to 'keep in touch' with friends and families around the globe

  - Communication between family members living in different countries is possible via – Skype Video Call. (VoIP Technology), MSN

IT has improved our lives

- **Availability of precise and up-to-date information**
  - Multimedia CD/DVD ROMS of Encyclopedia

  - Up-to-date Wikipedia

  - Specialised Web portals like: www.webopedia.com for IT, www.dictionary.com for journalists and writers, www.ivillage.com for women, askmen.com for men
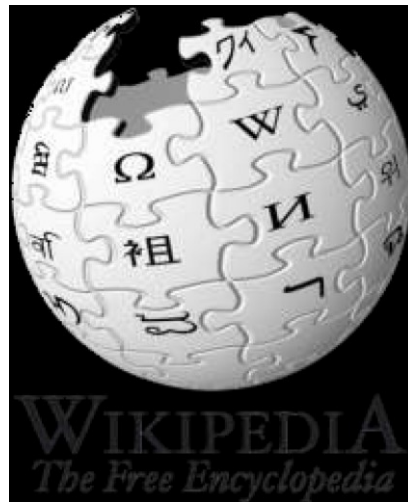
IT has improved our lives

- **Self- Expression**
  - Personal writing and publishing on the internet is possible. For eg. Writing blog articles, publishing digital photos, videos, tweets etc.

- **IT enables many services like**
  - Internet Banking
  - Online Ticket Booking
  - E-Commerce
  - The list goes on…

Negative Impact of IT

IT has negatively affected our lives

- **Overdependence on IT**

    - Y2K bug- also known as the millennium bug is one of the example of the devastating effect of unavailability of IT causing lots of inconveniences in our daily life.

    - The majority of the companies today are IT oriented and if this bug manifests itself in year 2099, all the software programs like payroll etc and mainly those industries associated to it will face major problems and also the cost of implementing all these software programs will be of no use.

Millennium bug
act now!

IT has negatively affected our lives

- **Cyber Crime**
- Cybercrime is a criminal activity done using computers and the Internet. This includes anything from downloading illegal music files to stealing millions of dollars from online bank accounts.

- Cybercrime also includes non-monetary offenses, such as creating and distributing viruses on other computers or posting confidential business information on the Internet.

IT has negatively affected our lives

- IT has provided us with a lot of facilities like; capacity to store data in a comparatively small space, easy access and these facilities have ease the aims of cyber criminals to commit crimes like:

➢ Accessing a computer without Authority (Hacking) to commit fraud

➢ Malicious Software: Viruses, Worms, Trojan Horses and Spyware

➢ Denial of Service (DoS) Attacks

➢ Child Pornography

➢ Intellectual property crime

➢ Using E-mail for threats and harassment

➢ Theft of Trade Secrets

➢ Cyber defamation

➢ Cyber-Terrorism and Cyber warfare

IT can negatively affect our lives

- Computer related diseases
  - **RSI- Repetitive Strain Injury**
  - **Back pain**
  - **Obesity**

Being in a competitive world of today where there is only the survival of the fittest; IT has been a factor that has negatively contributed in the poor health of people.

Furthermore it encourages towards a more individualistic personality of people which accounts to selfishness in most the cases.
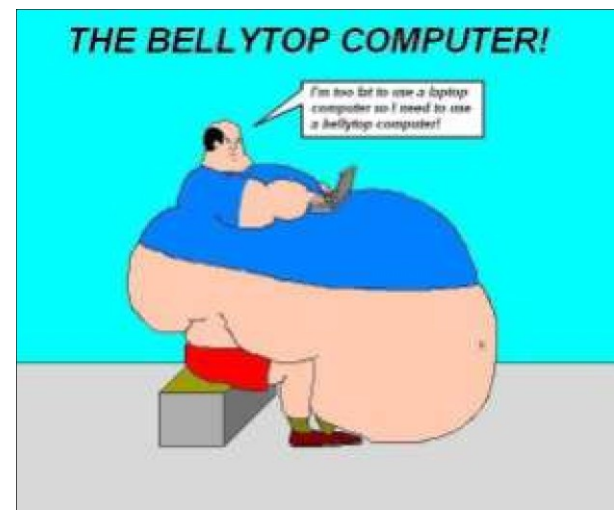
Law

- Discuss how the existing laws are protecting/not protecting the different parties (Employees/ Employers)

Laws Protecting Employees

- Labour Act 1975

- Employment Rights Act 2008

- Sex Discrimiation Act 2002

- Equal Opportunities Bill 2008
  - **ensure that every person has an equal opportunity to attain his objectives in various fields of activities of his choice and that no one will be disadvantaged by reason of his age, caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation.**

Laws Protecting Employers

- What are the laws protecting Employees against the Negative Effects of IT?

- The Copyright Act 1997

  - **"to make better provision for the protection of intellectual property and for connected matters"**

  - For eg. at work employers may implement the policy to not use pirated software. Such unlicensed software may contain viruses, worms or a backdoor to hacker attacks which might cause colossal amount of damage to the company's operations

- Sarbanes-Oxley Act

  - **Problem of Internal Threats: Employees practicing Social Engineering**

  - Sarbanes-Oxley is about ensuring internal controls are in place by firms to ensure integrity, confidentiality and accuracy of their data. Hence employers are better positioned to prevent employees to gain access to financial statements and commit any form of cyber crime.

Possible Solutions

- Suggest possible solutions to the above problems.

Possible Solutions

- Ergonomics in offices and at home.
  - **End users should take regular breaks after using computers for a good amount of time**
  - **They should have proper sitting positions on furniture with Ergonomic design**

- More severe laws and tight security control for information
- Systems
  - **Setting up of anti-cybercrime unit at National Level and act as the watchdog to prevent computer-related crimes**
  - **Firms need to invest in Security Infrastructure and use industry best practices to ensure the smooth running of the org., protected from any kind of cyber-attack**

- Organizations should encourage more of the socialization process
  - **To avoid over dependence on IT, a proper lifestyle should be encouraged where there is an adequate amount of time spent using computers/internet and family/friends/relatives.**

Conclusion

- Today IT touches virtually every aspect of our lives, from laptops and microwave ovens, to games consoles, mobile phones and credit cards.

- IT innovation is constantly changing the way we work and play.

- IT keeps business competitive by cutting business travel cost by enabling home working and teleconferencing.

- IT can make the economy healthy and accelerate radical advances in medicine and healthcare.

- Apart from IT being critical to economic and social progress, what's more is that the IT industry employs millions of us.

- However we have also seen the negative impacts of IT such as over-dependence on IT, cybercrime and computer-related diseases.

- There are also different laws protecting both parties (employers/ employees) against the ill-effects of IT.

- Finally, we have suggested some possible solutions to the problems that IT bring.

WE HOPE THAT THIS PRESENTATION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO

YOUR BODY OF KNOWLEDGE!

The End

Thank you for your kind attention!

References

- www.myjob.mu
- www.lexpress.mu
- http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/indicators/overview.html
- www.wisegeek.com
- www.theoatmeal.com