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IT Law

1. Use of IT Law

A social media app/website that is used world-wide must comply to the cyberlaws of every country/region/state it is going to operate on. If one region wants the app to ask for user agreements and acknowledgement the app/website must comply, if not, the app/website cannot operate and the developers/business is eligible for a fine, or lawsuit. Another cyberlaw that could hinder app/website use could be data protection. If a website/app cannot protect a user's private information, it is considered unsafe/illegal. The user's information could be used for fraud (credit-card fraud), identity theft, and cyber-bullying. It is essential for an app/website to protect user data; this reduces the risk of cyber-terrorism and endangering users. These examples outline the importance and efforts of cyberlaws. Without these laws, the internet would be a playground for crime and illegal activity. The internet is a more habitable and user friendly space for all.

2. Legal Research

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is an EU law enacted in 2018 that sets strict guidelines on how personal data is collected, processed, and stored. It requires organizations to obtain clear consent before handling user data, while also granting individuals rights such as data access, correction, and deletion. GDPR applies not only to European businesses but also to any global company handling EU citizens' data. Its role in IT is critical as it ensures transparency, accountability, and data security. Companies that fail to comply can face heavy fines, making GDPR a cornerstone of modern IT governance.

3. Case study analysis

In 2020, Oracle filed a lawsuit against Google over its use of Java APIs in the Android operating system. Oracle claimed Google had infringed its copyright by replicating parts of Java's code without a license. The case raised important questions about software copyright, innovation, and fair use. After years of legal battles, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Google's favor in 2021, stating that its use of Java API was "fair use" because it transformed the code for a new purpose. This case highlights the balance IT law must strike between protecting rights and encouraging innovation.

4. A compliance plan ensures that a website or app follows IT laws and protects user data. The checklist should include steps such as: drafting a clear privacy policy, obtaining user consent for data collection, applying encryption for sensitive information, updating security patches, and ensuring accessibility compliance. Regular audits should be scheduled to detect risks and ensure ongoing compliance. Staff training is also essential to prevent accidental violations. Documenting all policies and procedures provides evidence of compliance in case of disputes. Ultimately, a compliance plan builds trust, reduces risks, and keeps the IT system legally and ethically sound.

COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

for an IT system (e.g., website)



Privacy Policy



User Consent



Data Security



Accessibility



Regular Audits



Staff Training

