

Unit 12: Ethics in the Digital Landscape

Welcome to Week 12.

This week's learning explores concerns related to Ethics in the digital landscape. You will consider issues affecting legality of state's actions as well as individuals'. The learning will also look at ethics and challenges to police practice, and issues concerning responsiveness to unknown future technologies. You will also consider the issues concerning the legalities and illegalities of hacking.

On completion of this unit you will be able to:

- Explore issues concerning ethics in the cyberspace.
- Practice critical thinking skills.
- Practice research skills.

Reflection:

Ethics:

As a subfield of philosophy, ethics inquiries into the nature of right and wrong conduct. Since information in cyberspace is accessible around the world, the study of "computer ethics" is necessary to determine what actions are morally permissible for Internet users and to assess the societal effects of IT.

Being aware of the risks associated with IT, such as breaches in security and invasions of privacy, and the significant negative effects it has on the internet, is crucial. While measures like encryption, digital IDs, and firewalls have been put in place to mitigate some of the negative effects of IT on society, more needs to be done at the legislative level on a global scale to deal with the growing number of ethical issues that have arisen as a result. (Gunarto, n.d.).

Ethical Issues in Computing:

The worlds of business, manufacturing, politics, healthcare, education, entertainment, and social interaction are all profoundly impacted by IT. Benefits to society and the economy are obvious. It's true that IT has some positive effects on our society, but it also has some bad effects, just like any other technology. There are ethical concerns that it raises and problems that it produces, most notably concerning people's right to

privacy, their ability to gain access to information, and the possibility of disastrous consequences. (CompTIA, 2019).

i. Personal Privacy

When it comes to protecting one's privacy, information technology facilitates the instantaneous, global transmission of data from any source, anywhere in the world. As a result of its global disseminations, there is a higher risk of information disclosure and privacy violations affecting any individual or group anywhere in the world. Protecting the confidentiality and security of personal information is a top priority for us. It also involves safeguarding information to prevent its inadvertent or intentional release to the wrong parties and keeping it updated to assure its accuracy.

ii. Access Right

Access rights are the second element of computer ethics. Computer security and access rights have quickly gone from being a low priority for enterprises and government agencies to a high one due to the present popularity of international trade on the Internet. Safeguarding Internet connections from unauthorized access is impossible without adopting and enforcing sound computer security rules and practices.

iii. Harmful Actions

Harmful actions in the context of computer ethics might result in physical harm, data loss, physical damage, or detrimental effects on the environment. Deliberately obliterating or altering files and programmes can cause significant loss of resources and wasteful use of human resources, such as the time and energy needed to rid systems of "computer viruses."

Ethical Issues in Cyber Security:

The vast majority of us use computers, smartphones, and networks for purposes other than keeping track of virus signatures and danger vectors, thus we must leave our security in the hands of professionals. Although the rest of us may never encounter the kinds of ethical dilemmas faced by those who work in cybersecurity, we should recognise that they exist.

i. Confidentiality

A major problem in the field of cybersecurity is maintaining privacy. By the very nature of their work, security personnel are likely to come into contact with and handle sensitive information. It's easy to see how those who work in these fields would be tempted to spill the beans about the juicy gossip they uncovered while scanning someone's hard drive for viruses but doing so might be disastrous for the victim's professional and personal prospects. As the saying goes, "the butler never tells," which is why those who work in cybersecurity should always remember that.

ii. Security

It may seem repetitive to say that security is also an ethical issue when discussing a cybersecurity professional but consider this: if we are all accountable for implementing suitable cybersecurity procedures in our own lives, then your level of accountability should be multiplied by a factor of one hundred. A cyber security expert's duty is to ensure that nothing untoward happens. For the average person, it may not be a huge concern when they leave their computer unattended or fail to install a recommended update, but for a professional in the field of cybersecurity, such actions could be considered a serious breach of ethics. They have the heaviest burden of responsibility for ensuring the safety of computers, data, and networks. (Future of Tech, n.d.).

Critical Thinking:

Whether in your personal life or your career, you need to be able to make sound decisions.

Using our critical thinking skills, we can identify and fix any problems with our current approach to making decisions, leading to a more desirable outcome. In a nutshell, it doesn't matter what you're doing, you always need to be able to make sound decisions, and for that you need to be able to do both critical thinking and swift action.

1. Know exactly what you want

Knowing exactly what you want is the first step of critical thinking.

2. Deal with your biases

When faced with a dilemma, we frequently resort to our own limited point of view. However, it is helpful for critical thinking and making decisions to put yourself in the shoes of another person.

3. Consider the consequences of your options

Every option we choose has consequences for ourselves, or maybe others involved in the problem.

4. Do your research

The saying goes something like "knowledge is power," and I'm sure you've heard it before. Still, many of us cling tightly to our preconceived notions and rely heavily on our prior experiences. In order to think critically and find solutions to issues, you must sometimes reject your own personal views.

5. Accept the fact that you're not always right

This one can be harder than it sounds. It's okay to make mistakes and no matter who we are, we all make them.

6. Break it down

Being able to see the big picture is great but it's even better if you can break things down into smaller sections (findcourses.co.uk, 2022).

Research Skills:

Without a doubt, conducting original research is a challenging endeavour. It's difficult to do in-depth study and acquire the right data for a new concept. Reading a few recently released papers is only the beginning.

The capacity and know-how to carry out research is referred to as "research talents." This involves researching the topic, evaluating the sources, and giving credit where credit is due. The more you use your research skills, the better you will get at them, so don't neglect them.

Research Skills Vs. Research Methods

Research techniques and research skills are often used interchangeably, but this is not always the case. They are similar, but not the same.

The process includes the development of research abilities, which can be time-consuming to acquire. Methods of research are the tools employed during the study process. An example of a research strategy might be a review of the relevant literature. Acquiring the ability to perform a thorough literature review is a necessary skill for any researcher.

You may hone your research abilities and become more efficient, precise, and dependable via regular practise. Research abilities include critical thinking, project management, excellent notetaking, and time management. (Quetext, 2022).

Improving Research Skills:

Numerous abilities need to be mastered to ensure a study project is completed successfully. Academic research is an art that may be honed with experience and repetition. The use of outlines, sources, and practice can help you become a better researcher. (Young, 2020).

- i. Educate yourself on search techniques and map out a methodical approach.
- ii. The scholarly debate on your issue can be unlocked by monitoring citations across time.
- iii. Look for Research-Specific Expert Help Guides.
- iv. Keep track of your references in a systematic manner.
- v. Experiment with More Complex Search Strategies

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