Topic 8 Discussion 1

Securing information systems is a common and ongoing process. However, business priorities often compete against limited resources, which can result in a data breach. At what point does the decision to not implement best practices based on business priorities become an ethical question? Examine this ethical decision from the Christian worldview perspective.

Hello Class,

From a Christian worldview, the decision to prioritize business goals over robust data security becomes ethically questionable when it directly contradicts the principles of love, stewardship, and truthfulness.

Firstly, Christians are called to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to them, including information and resources. This responsibility extends to protecting sensitive data entrusted by customers, employees, and partners. Failing to implement basic security measures due to cost-cutting, when it demonstrably increases the risk of a breach, violates this principle.

Secondly, the Christian ethic of love for one's neighbor demands protecting others from harm. Data breaches can lead to identity theft, financial loss, and emotional distress. Choosing to prioritize profit over security, knowing it increases the risk of such harm, is a direct violation of this principle.

Finally, truthfulness and honesty are paramount in Christian ethics. This includes being transparent about data security practices and taking responsibility for any breaches that occur. Deliberately downplaying security risks or hiding vulnerabilities to avoid financial repercussions is a violation of this principle.

Ultimately, the ethical choice involves weighing the potential consequences of both actions and inaction. While businesses face real challenges in balancing security investments with other priorities, Christian ethics provide a strong framework for prioritizing the protection of data and the well-being of individuals. As information technology shifts and grows, it is key for IT to be based on trust, responsibility, integrity, and respect. While IT allows us to be more connected than ever, protected levels of privacy and confidentiality continue to be important. By keeping ethics in IT, we can effectively reduce the risk of dishonesty and breaks of security(Gordon, 2023). It's important to remember that the ethical choice is often the most difficult one, but it is also the one that honors God and reflects the values of a Christian worldview.

Reference:

Gordon, Ashley. (2024, October). *Why Ethics Are Important in Information Technology*. Berks Technical Institute. https://www.berks.edu/importance-of-ethics-in-information-technology/