Topic 3 Discussion 2

Using resources available in the library or the internet, find out what laws your state has passed to prosecute computer crimes. List a minimum of two methods for preventing illegal or unethical behavior in an organization and justify your rationale.

Hello Class,

In Texas, several laws have been enacted to address and prosecute computer crimes, primarily outlined in the Texas Penal Code, Chapter 33. Two significant statutes include:

Breach of Computer Security (Texas Penal Code § 33.02): This law makes it a crime to knowingly access a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner. Violations can lead to serious penalties, including state jail felony charges, which may result in 180 days to 2 years in prison and fines up to $10,000(*PENAL CODE CHAPTER 33. COMPUTER CRIMES*, n.d.).

Unauthorized Use of a Computer (Texas Penal Code § 33.03): This statute criminalizes the unauthorized use of a computer, computer network, or computer system. Depending on the circumstances, it can be classified as a Class A misdemeanor or a third-degree felony, with penalties ranging from up to 1 year in jail and fines up to 4,000 for misdemeanors, 2 to 10 years in state prison and fines up to4 ,000 for misdemeanors, to 2 to 10 years in state prison and fines up to10,000 for felonies(PENAL CODE CHAPTER 33. COMPUTER CRIMES, n.d.).

To prevent illegal or unethical behavior within organizations, two effective methods can be implemented:

Comprehensive Training Programs - Regular training on ethical standards, legal compliance, and cybersecurity best practices is essential(De Cremer & Vandekerckhove, 2017). This approach ensures that employees are aware of the laws governing their actions and the potential consequences of violations. By fostering a culture of accountability, organizations can significantly reduce the likelihood of unintentional breaches and unethical behavior.

Robust Internal Policies and Procedures - Establishing clear policies regarding acceptable use of technology, data protection, and reporting mechanisms for unethical behavior creates a structured framework for accountability(Sawyer, 2021). When employees understand the rules and the repercussions of violations, they are more likely to adhere to ethical standards. Additionally, implementing a whistleblower policy encourages reporting of unethical behavior without fear of retaliation(Complylog. 2022).

References:

Complylog. (2022, June 13). *6 Proven Ways to Prevent Unethical Behaviour in the Workplace | Blog*. Blog.complylog.com. https://blog.complylog.com/whistleblowing/ways-to-prevent-unethical-behaviour-in-the-workplace

De Cremer, D., & Vandekerckhove, W. (2017). Managing unethical behavior in organizations: The need for a behavioral business ethics approach. *Journal of Management & Organization*, *23*(3), 437–455. https://doi.org/10.1017/jmo.2016.4

*PENAL CODE CHAPTER 33. COMPUTER CRIMES*. (n.d.). Statutes.capitol.texas.gov. https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/PE/htm/PE.33.htm

Sawyer, M. (2021). *Leaders’ Strategies for Reducing Unethical Behavior in Leaders’ Strategies for Reducing Unethical Behavior in Organizations Organizations*. https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=12117&context=dissertations