Ethics in Technology

Privacy

You are implementing a new inventory control system for a manufacturing company. The new system tracks the quantity and movements of all finished goods that remain in the warehouse after production. Any time the product is moved, the barcode is scanned, recording the date, time, and badge number of the person who is completing the task. All recorded data is transmitted to the application over the wireless network. The shift manager has determined that he can use this data to monitor worker productivity. He will be able to tell how much product per shift is moved and by whom. The manager plans to use this information to inform performance reviews that could result in rewards but also lead to termination. Consider the ramifications of using this data in such a manner. Do you think the program designer planned on it being utilized in this way?

At the end of this module, you will be able to answer the following questions:

- What is the right of privacy, and what is the basis for protecting personal privacy under the law?
- What are some of the laws that provide protection for the privacy of personal data, and what are some of the associated ethical issues?
- What are the various strategies for consumer profiling, and what are the associated ethical issues?
- What is e-discovery, and how is it being used?
- Why and how are employers increasingly using workplace monitoring?
- What are the capabilities of advanced surveillance technologies, and what ethical issues do they raise?

Chapter 4: "Personhood and Privacy"



Essential Question:

How do I determine compliance with national and international consumer data protection and privacy regulations?

Read <u>Chapter 3</u> and <u>Chapter 4</u> in Ethics in Information Technology.



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