When IT is asked to Spy

By Lehi Alcantara

In the Information Technology field we may be asked to “spy” our co-workers in terms of checking what websites the employees of a company are browsing to on work schedule; what type of information is shared online via messaging or blogs.

The reason why Information Technology employees may be asked to perform such task is because we are the ones with that set of skills that are required to perform such task. Although some people may find this hard to do, I believe that this is an uncomfortable area but very necessary to protect companies’ assets intact.

In the past a few managers from different companies have asked Information Technology employees to tell company employees that they would be doing some work on their computer required by the company, but to not tell the employees that they would be spying on them, this is ethically wrong and to my relieve Information Technology employees have stated that they will perform what they have been asked for, such as install scripts and software to keep track of employees acts during work, but that they will not lie to their co-workers saying that what they are doing is something else.

I believe that it is important to protect companies’ assets and it is because of that many companies have in their company rules statements, that it lets employees know that they will be monitored as they work in company’s time; that way our job as Information Technologist is performed in an ethical manner and company is allowed to do whatever they want to in terms of trying to protect company’s information by spying on its employees.

It is also confirmed that employees that know they are being spied, are more efficient workers that know that company has an eye on them, and that they need to show that he/she is a top notch performer in the company by not wasting company’s time, by only using the computer to perform company’s tasks.

# References

Harbert, Tam. October 11 2010. When IT Is Asked to Spy. Pages 14 – 20. ComputerWorld magazine.