COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS ON THE INFLUENCES OF COMPUTER ETHICS ON INFORMATION SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

Many ethical issues related to computer remains to be a concern regardless the mode of activity. Computer security, therefore, must also be concerned with the actions of trusted computer users. Since businesses have increased their usage of computers, an organization must play a major role in developing ethical awareness among employees so that they will make ethical choices regarding computer activities while in workplace. Therefore, the purposes of this project are to identify which component of computer ethics influence information security, to develop framework of computer ethics and information security and to determine the relationship between computer ethics and information security. Several statistical methods are used throughout the analysis. This project is expected provide an exposure on the importance of computer ethics and information security in an organization. Solutions need to be taken to deal with potential of unethical behavior associated with the use of information.

ABSTRAK

Terdapat pelbagai isu etika yang berkaitan dengan penggunaan komputer yang masih menjadi satu kebimbangan dalam apa jua mod aktiviti. Isu keselamatan komputer juga penting kerana kebarangkalian jenayah dilakukan oleh pengguna Sejak perniagaan dan organisasi meningkatkan komputer yang dipercayai. penggunaan komputer dalam urusan kerja seharian, organisasi perlu memainkan peranan dalam meningkatkan kesedaran etika di kalangan pekerja-pekerja supaya mereka akan membuat pilihan yang beretika mengenai aktiviti-aktiviti komputer yang dijalankan di tempat kerja. Oleh itu, tujuan projek ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti komponen etika komputer yang mana dapat mempengaruhi keselamatan maklumat, untuk membangunkan rangkakerja bagi etika komputer dan keselamatan maklumat dan untuk menentukan hubungan antara etika komputer dan keselamatan maklumat. Beberapa kaedah statistik digunakan sepanjang analisis. Adalah diharapkan agar projek ini dapat memberi pendedahan terhadap kepentingan etika komputer dan keselamatan maklumat di dalam organisasi. Penyelesaian perlu diambil untuk berurusan dengan potensi tingkah laku tidak beretika yang berkaitan dengan penggunaan maklumat.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE

CHAPTER

TIT	'LE PAGE	i
DEC	CLARATION	ii
ACI	KNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABS	STRACT	iv
ABS	STRAK	v
TAI	BLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIS	T OF TABLES	Х
LIS	T OF FIGURES	xii
LIS	T OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiii
LIS	T OF APPENDICES	xiv
INTR	RODUCTION	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Background of Study	2
1.3	Problem Statement	3
1.4	Objectives	4
1.5	Scope of Research	4
1.6	Project Requirement	5
1.7	Summary	6
LITE	CRATURE REVIEW	7
2.1	Introduction	7
2.2	Computer Ethics	7
	2.2.1 Ethical Issues	9
	TIT DE AC AB AB TA LIS LIS LIS LIS LIS 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 LITH 2.1 2.2	TITLE PAGEDECLARATIONACKNOWLEDGEMENTABSTRACTABSTRAKTABLE OF CONTENTSLIST OF TABLESLIST OF TABLESLIST OF ABBREVIATIONSLIST OF ABBREVIATIONSLIST OF APPENDICES11Introduction11NOBLEN Statement1.4Objectives1.5Scope of Research1.6Project Requirement1.7SummaryLITERATURE REVIEW2.11.2Computer Ethics2.1LTHICALISUES

PAGE

	2.2.2	Other Et	hical Framework References	11
		2.2.2.1	Research Model to Examine the	11
			Ethical Decision-Making of IT	
			Professional	
		2.2.2.2	Research Model of Ethical Decision	13
			Making Related to Computer	
			Technology	
		2.2.2.3	Ethical Framework of Computer Based	14
			Information for Healthcare	
			Professional	
	2.2.3	Compute	er Ethics Components	15
2.3	Inform	nation Secu	rity	18
2.4	Other	Questionna	ire References	20
	2.4.1	Compute	er Security and Computer Ethics	20
		Awarene	ess: A Component of Management	
		Informat	ion System	
	2.4.2	Compute	er Security and Ethics Awareness in	21
		Universi	ty Environments: A Challenge for	
		Manager	nent Information Systems	
	2.4.3	The Effe	ct of a University Information Security	21
		Survey o	n Instruction Methods in Information	
		Security		
	2.4.4	Faculty A	Awareness of University Computer Usage	21
		Regulati	ons	
	2.4.5	Question	naire Development	22
2.5	Propos	sed Framev	vork	22
2.6	Summ	ary		23
RESE	ARCH N	METHOD	OLOGY	24
3.1	Introd	uction		24
3.2	Resear	ch Process		24
	3.2.1	Problem	Formulation	25
	3.2.2	Design the	he Study	26

3

	3.2.3	Literature Review			
	3.2.4	Formula	Formulation of Questionnaire		
	3.2.5	Pilot Stu	ıdy	27	
	3.2.6	Revise (Questionnaire	28	
	3.2.7	Data Co	llection	28	
	3.2.8	Data Sta	tistical Analysis	29	
		3.2.8.1	Factor Analysis	30	
		3.2.8.2	Reliability Analysis	30	
		3.2.8.3	Correlation	30	
		3.2.8.4	Regression Analysis	31	
	3.2.9	Interpret	the Findings	31	
	3.2.10	Docume	ntation	32	
3.3	Summa	ry		32	

4	ANAI	LYSIS	33	
	4.1	Introduction		
	4.2	Analysis of Demographic Profile	33	
	4.3	Analysis of Participant Profile	35	
	4.4	Analysis of Computer Ethics and Information Security	36	
		4.4.1 Factor Analysis for Computer Ethics	37	
		4.4.2 Factor Analysis for Information Security	41	
		4.4.3 Reliability Analysis	45	
		4.4.4 Correlational Analysis	51	
		4.4.5 Regression Analysis	53	
	4.3	Research Findings	55	
	4.4	Summary	56	
5	DISC	USSION AND CONCLUSION	57	
	5.1	Introduction	57	
	5.2	Summary of Research Findings	57	
		5.2.1 Computer Ethics Components	58	
		5.2.2 Information Security Components	58	

	5.2.3	The	Influences	of	Computer	Ethics	on	59
		Infor	mation Securi	ity				
5.3	Limita	tions &	Recommend	lation	s of Future R	esearch		59
5.4	Contri	bution	of This Study					59
5.5	Conclu	iding R	emarks					60
FERENCES 6					62			

Appendices A - B	65 - 70
	00 / 0

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO).
----------	----

TITLE

PAGE

3.1	Population of Manufacturing, Education and Services	29
	organization/company in Klang Valley	
4.1	Demographic Profile – Gender and Organization Type	34
4.2	Demographic Profile – Industry Type	34
4.3	Demographic Participant Profile – Gender and Education	35
4.4	Variables in Computer Ethics	37
4.5	Component Matrix for Code of Ethics	38
4.6	Component Matrix for Ethic Awareness	38
4.7	Total Variance Explained for Ethic Awareness	39
4.8	Factor Analysis for Ethic Awareness	40
4.9	Component Matrix for Law	41
4.10	Variables in Information Security	41
4.11	Component Matrix for Confidentiality	42
4.12	Total Variance Explained for Confidentiality	42
4.13	Factor Analysis for Confidentiality	43
4.14	Component Matrix for Integrity	44
4.15	Component Matrix for Availability	44
4.16	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Reliability Statistics between	45
	Ethic Awareness and Information Security	
4.17	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Item Statistics between Ethic	45
	Awareness and Information Security	
4.18	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Item-Total Statistics between	46
	Ethic Awareness and Information Security	

4.19	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Reliability Statistics between	48
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	
4.20	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Item Statistics between	48
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	
4.21	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Item-Total Statistics between	49
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	
4.22	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Correlations between Ethic	51
	Awareness and Information Security	
4.23	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Correlations between	52
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	
4.24	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Descriptive Statistics between	53
	Ethic Awareness and Information Security	
4.25	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Descriptive Statistics between	53
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	
4.26	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Correlations between Ethic	54
	Awareness and Information Security	
4.27	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Correlations between	54
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	
4.28	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Model Summary between Ethic	55
	Awareness and Information Security	
4.29	(Post-Factorial Analysis) Model Summary between	55
	Intellectual Property Awareness and Information Security	

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Research Model to Examine the Ethical Decision-Making	11
	of IT Professional	
2.2	Research Model of Ethical Decision Making Related to	13
	Computer Technology	
2.3	Ethical Framework of Computer Based Information for	14
	Healthcare Professional	
2.4	Proposed Framework	22
3.1	Steps in the Research Process	25
4.1	Demographic Organization Profile – Industry Type and	34
	Organization Size	
4.2	Demographic Participant Profile – Gender and Length of	35
	Computer Usage	
4.3	Demographic Participant Profile – Gender and Position	36
	Level	
4.4	Revised Framework	56

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AASU	-	Armstrong Atlantic State University
CASE	-	Centre for Advance Software Engineering
CE	-	Computer Ethics
CEI	-	Computer Ethics Institute
CST	-	College of Science and Technology
e-Governmen	nt -	electronic-Government
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IS	-	Information Security
IT	-	Information Technology
KMO	-	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
US	-	United States
UTM	-	University Technology Malaysia
VS	-	Versus
WWW	-	World Wide Web

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	Questionnaire	66
В	Cover Letter to Distribute Questionnaire	70

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Computer usage has increasingly become a part of human's life because it provides us with many capabilities and these in turn give us new choices for action. Realizing its impertinent presence, the Malaysia government has shown its commitment in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) with the implementation of electronic-Government (e-Government). Thus signified Malaysia's effort in transforming the way it operates, modernizing and enhancing its service delivery.

Computer files, databases, networking and the Internet-based applications all have gradually become part of the most critical assets of an individual and organization. When these assets are attacked, damaged or threatened, data integrity becomes an issue and the proper operation of the business may be interrupted. Therefore, the need of computer ethics is crucial and the use of computer technology should be controlled, monitored and guided to protect users and organizations from computer threats.

The misuse of computers and unethical behaviour related to computer application systems has resulted in serious losses to business and society. As never before, computer-based technology provides organizations the opportunity to have almost instantaneous access to vast amounts of critical information about customers, competitors, employees, and suppliers.

Organizations are commonly affected by incidents such as information violations, misuse of peer file sharing and accessing inappropriate websites. Hence, this project will examine computer ethics and computer security among employees of Klang Valley organizations. Finally, the study will describe the relationship between computer ethics in the world of information security, and which component of computer ethics influences information security.

1.2 Background of the Study

Computers can perform almost any task and obviously pose a threat to jobs. At the same time, computers are often far more efficient than humans in performing many tasks. Therefore, economic incentives to replace humans with computerized devices are very high. Indeed, in the industrialized world many workers already have been replaced by computerized devices, for example, bank tellers, auto workers, telephone operators, typists, graphic artists, security guards, assembly-line workers, and many others. In addition, even professionals like medical doctors, lawyers, teachers, accountants and psychologists are finding that computers can perform many of their traditional professional duties quite effectively.

In this era of computer "viruses" and international spying by "hackers" who are thousands of miles away, it is pertinent that computer security is a topic of concern in the field of computer ethics. Malicious kinds of software, or "programmed threats", provide a significant challenge to computer security. These include "viruses", which cannot run on their own, but rather are inserted into other computer programs; "worms" which can move from machine to machine across networks, and may have parts of themselves running on different machines; "Trojan horses" which appear to be one sort of program, but actually are doing damage behind the scenes; "logic bombs" which check for particular conditions and then execute when those conditions arise; and "bacteria" or "rabbits" which multiply rapidly and fill up the computer's memory.

Computer crimes, such as misuse or planting of logic bombs, are normally committed by trusted personnel who have permission to use the computer system. Computer security, therefore, must also be concerned with the actions of trusted computer users.

The ease and efficiency with which computers and computer networks can be used to gather, store, search, compare, retrieve and share personal information make computer technology especially threatening to anyone who wishes to keep various kinds of sensitive information (e.g., medical records) out of the public domain or out of the hands of those who are perceived as potential threats. One of the more controversial areas of computer ethics concerns the intellectual property rights connected with software ownership. The software industry lost almost millions of dollars in sales because of copying. Ownership is a complex matter, since there are several different aspects of software that can be owned and three different types of ownership: copyrights, trade secrets, and patents.

Many ethical issues related to computer use are issues that are concern regardless of the mode of activity. Businesses have struggled for many years with people who take credit for someone else's work. The availability of wide-ranging sources of information on the Internet has made it much easier to obtain someone else's work than was previously.

1.3 Problem Statement

Computer-based technology provides organizations the opportunity to have almost instantaneous access to vast amounts if critical information about customers, competitors, employees and suppliers. Since businesses have increased their usage of computers, an organization must play a major role in developing ethical awareness among employees so that they will make ethical choices regarding computer activities while in workplace.

Incidents involving privacy violations, data theft and many more have emphasized the potential of unethical behavior associated with the use of information, and there is the importance of information security due to the increased utilization of computers and Internet. It is necessary to study the relationship between computer ethics and information security and how does computer ethics influence information security.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of this project will be as follows:

- To identify which component of computer ethics influence information security.
- To develop framework of computer ethics and information security.
- To determine the relationship between computer ethics and information security.

1.5 Scope of Research

This project will focus on determining the relationship between computer ethics and information security. There were two scopes have been identified to facilitate research understanding and management;

- Research site scope concentrated among employees in Klang Valley which are working in manufacturing and services industry in two types of organization, government and private sector.
- Data was collected from respondents using questionnaire were gathered from a stratified random sample using the local online search directory (<u>http://www.701panduan.com/</u>) and Malaysia's Government Official Portal (<u>http://www.gov.my/</u>).

1.6 Project Requirement

For the purpose of completing this study, the following equipments are required:

(a) Hardware Requirements

In order to ensure the actual requirements needed, comparison and observation have been done. Below are the components of hardware requirement that were used:

- (i) Personal Computer with 1.8 GHz Pentium IV CPU;
- (ii) At least 512 Megabytes of RAM;
- (iii) 20 Gigabyte Hard Drive;
- (iv) USB Ports; and
- (v) Printer.
- (b) Software Requirements

During the level of choosing the appropriate software to facilitate in doing this research, detail observation should be emphasized. From the observation that have been done, the software that being used are:

- (i) Operating System: Microsoft XP;
- (ii) Office Application: Microsoft Office XP, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Visio; and
- (iii) Statistical software To perform data analysis including solutions for Data Integration and Analytics, SPSS version 15.0 & 17.0.
- (c) Questionnaire

One primary survey method is used to elicit information from respondents, Questionnaire. The questionnaire for this research can be referred in Appendix A.

1.7 Summary

This chapter begins with the overview of this computer usage, computer ethics and information security along with the background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, scope of research and project requirement.

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