

Computer Ethics Awareness Among Undergraduate Students in Malaysian Higher Education Institutions

Maslin Masrom

Department of Science, College of Science and Technology
University Technology Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: maslin@citycampus.utm.my

Zuraini Ismail

Department of Science, College of Science and Technology
University Technology Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: zurainisma@citycampus.utm.my

Ramlah Hussein

Department of Information System, Kulliyah of Information & Communication Technology
International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: ramlah@iiu.edu.my

Abstract

This study investigates the ethical awareness of computer use among undergraduate computer science students at two public Malaysian universities. One hundred and fifty-nine students were asked to evaluate the code of ethics pertaining to computer ethics. A comparison of undergraduate computer science students between two public universities was done to determine the level of ethical awareness of computer use. Independent Samples T-test for differences was performed across four distinct groups, that is, university, gender, age, and duration of computer use. The results of the tests conducted indicate that the ethical awareness of computer use of the students differ most significantly on the basis of the university itself. There were minimal differences across gender, age and duration of computer use. This suggests that computer ethics awareness training is needed for university users. The results are discussed and the implications for studies in an education context are outlined.

Keywords

Ethics, Computer, Awareness, Higher Education, Malaysia.