# MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN IT SYSTEMS

*Understanding responsibility and integrity in technology*
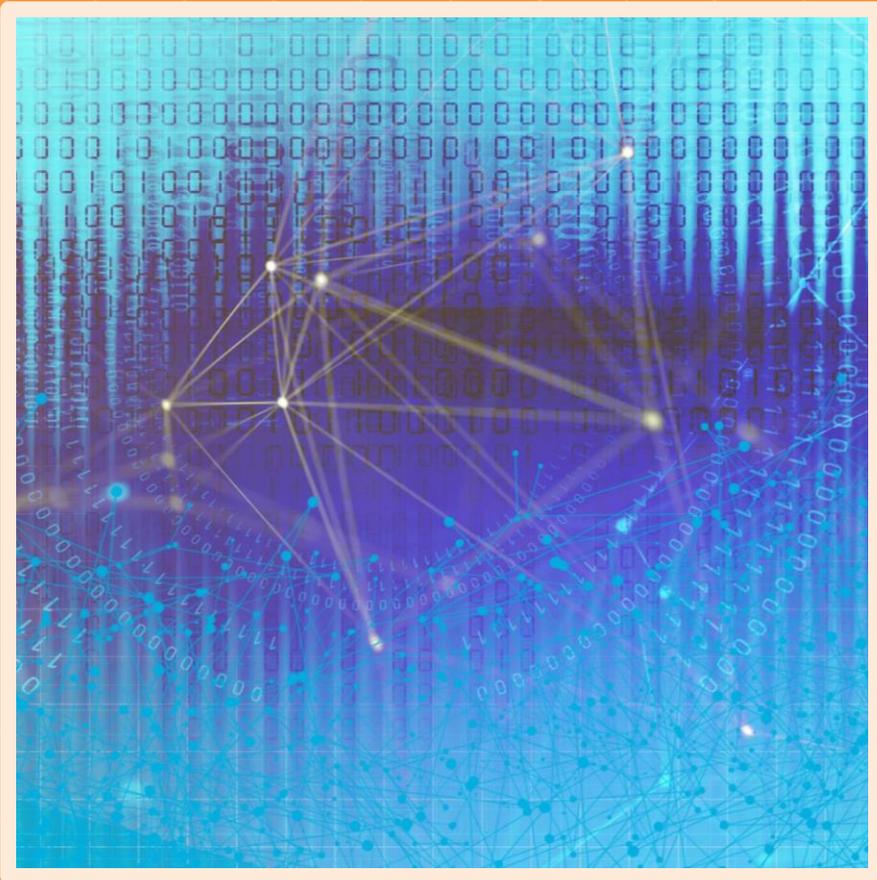
# Understanding Moral and Ethical Issues

# IT systems raise moral and ethical issues



**Ethical Data Handling**

Proper management of data is crucial to protect privacy and prevent misuse by individuals and organizations.

**Online Interaction Ethics**

Ethical concerns arise in how people communicate and behave online, affecting digital respect and trust.

**Fair Technology Access**

Ensuring equal and fair access to technology helps promote inclusion and reduce inequality.
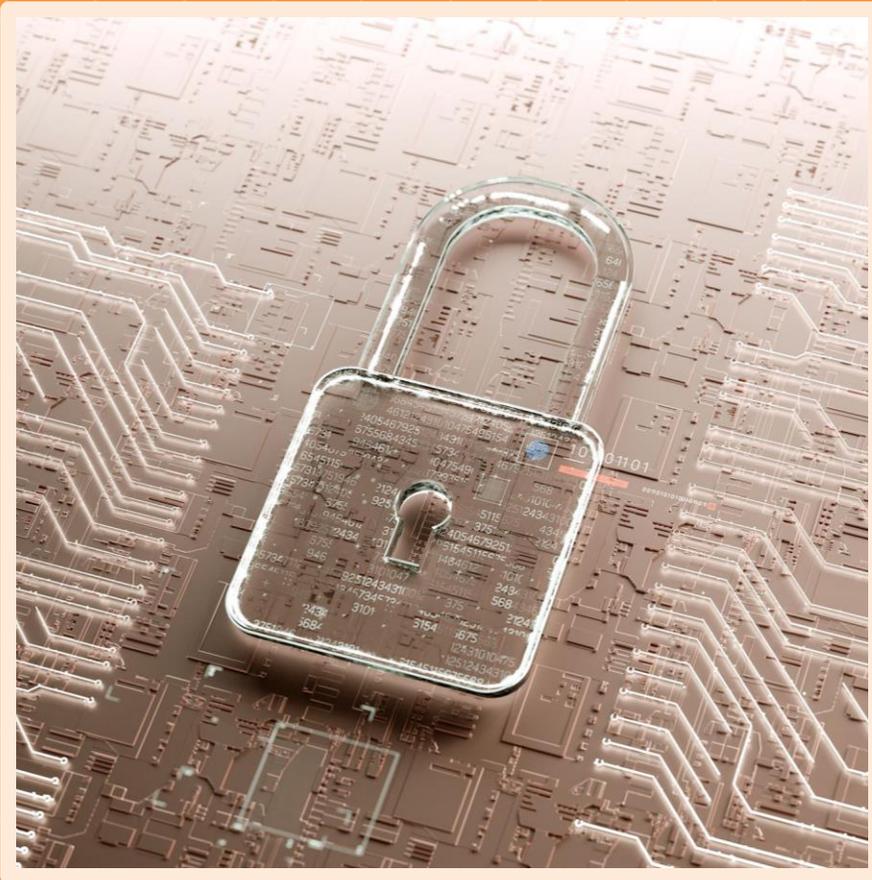
**Responsible IT Use**

Understanding moral concerns encourages responsible decisions and ethical practices in IT usage.

# Privacy and Environmental Impact

# Privacy is a key concern



## Importance of Privacy

Privacy is a critical ethical concern requiring protection of personal data in all digital systems.

## Organizational Responsibilities

Organizations must responsibly collect, store, and share data to uphold user privacy and trust.

## Consequences of Breaches

Privacy breaches can cause identity theft, loss of trust, and legal repercussions for organizations and users.

## Need for Strong Policies

Implementing strong privacy policies and secure systems is essential for ethical IT practices.
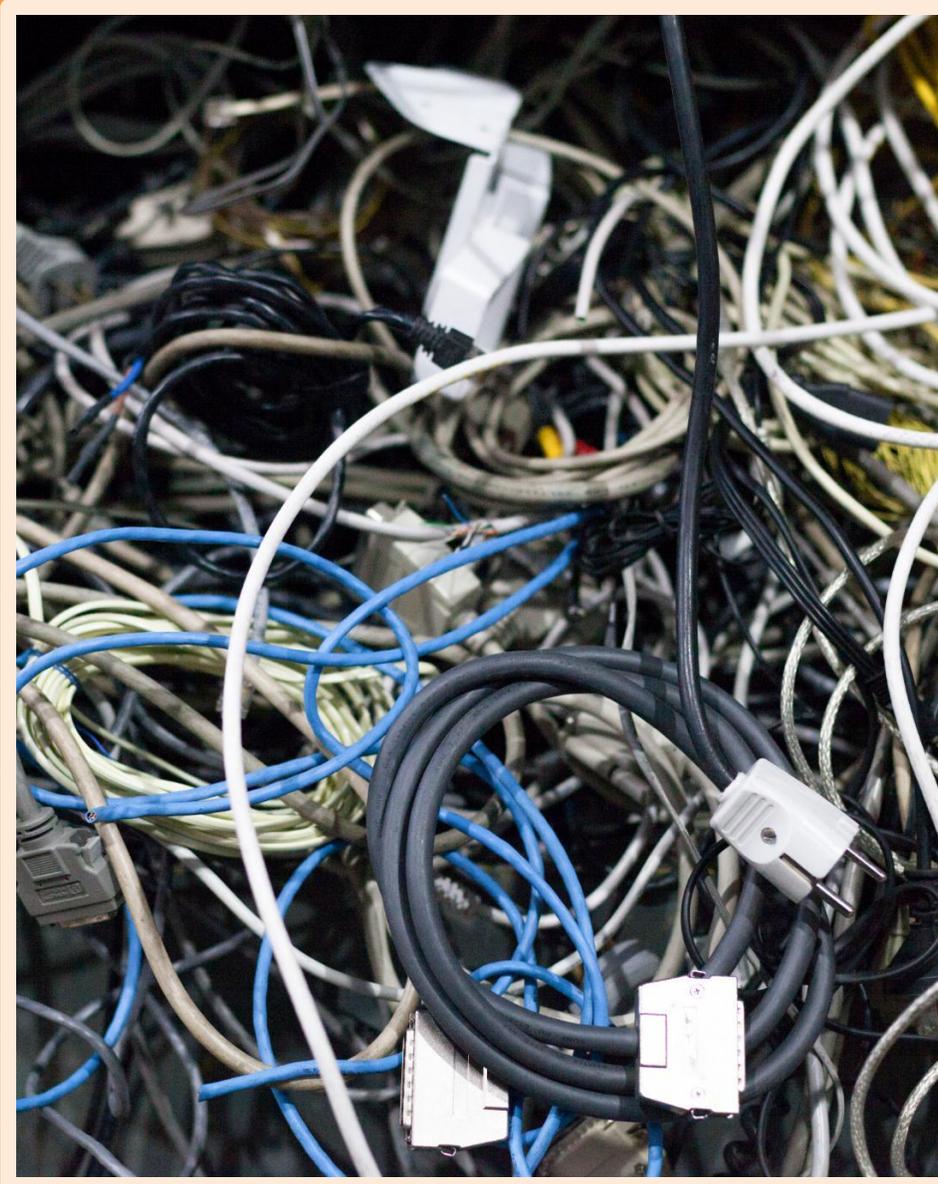
# IT affects the environment

**Electronic Device Pollution**

Production and disposal of electronic devices contribute significantly to pollution and environmental waste.

**Energy Use in Data Centres**

Data centres consume large amounts of energy, impacting climate change and increasing the environmental footprint.

**Sustainable IT Practices**

Choosing energy-efficient devices, recycling electronics, and responsible cloud usage help reduce environmental impact.

# **Access and Inclusion**

# Not everyone has equal access to technology



### Digital Divide Challenges

Many individuals and communities lack infrastructure and resources to access digital technology effectively.
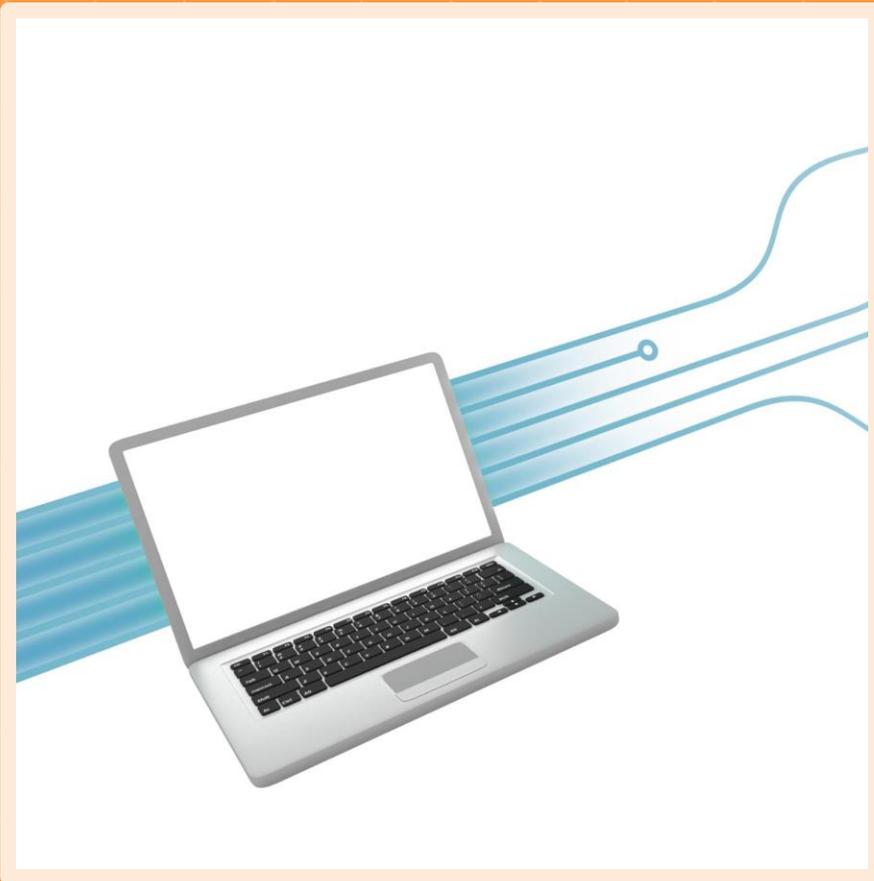


### Impact on Opportunities

Limited technology access restricts education, employment, and communication opportunities for affected groups.



### Promoting Accessibility

Organizations should promote affordable services, digital literacy, and inclusive system designs for all users.

# Assistive technology helps people with disabilities



**Purpose of Assistive Technology**

Assistive technology helps people with disabilities use IT systems, enhancing access and usability.

**Examples of Assistive Tools**

Screen readers, voice recognition software, and adaptive keyboards are common assistive tools.

**Promoting Inclusion and Independence**

These technologies promote independence and inclusion by enabling effective task performance.

**Accessibility in System Development**

Organizations must ensure accessibility to benefit all users, regardless of disabilities.

# Online Behaviour and Policies

# Online behavior should follow netiquette

### Respectful Online Communication

Netiquette emphasizes polite and respectful messaging to foster positive interactions online.

### Privacy and Harm Prevention

Avoiding harmful content and respecting others' privacy is essential to maintaining a safe digital space.

### Promoting Ethical Online Behavior

Education and clear guidelines help prevent cyberbullying and misinformation in online communities.

# Acceptable use policies guide IT usage



**Definition and Purpose**

Acceptable use policies define appropriate use of IT systems within organizations to guide users.

**Rules and Restrictions**

AUPs set rules on data access, device usage, and online communication to prevent misuse.

**Security and Ethics**

Policies protect security and promote ethical behavior among employees and users.

**Resource Management**

AUPs help manage IT resources effectively and encourage responsible use.

# Legal Issues in IT Systems

Understanding legal challenges impacting technology infrastructure

# Legal Protection for IT Systems

# Computer Misuse Act

**Purpose of the Act**

The Computer Misuse Act 1990 aims to combat cybercrime and unauthorized access to computer systems in the UK.

**Offenses Defined**

Sections 1, 2, and 3 define offenses like unauthorized access, intent to commit crimes, and impairing computer operations.

**Legal Scope and Penalties**

The Act applies to UK-related digital operations with penalties including fines and imprisonment based on offense severity.

**Protecting IT Systems**

This legislation safeguards IT systems and users from misuse, ensuring data integrity and security in digital environments.

# Copyright, Designs and Patents Act

**Scope of Copyright Protection**

The Act protects original works including text, images, music, and software from unauthorized use.

**Automatic Copyright**

Creators gain automatic copyright protection upon creation without the need to register their work.

**Rights and Enforcement**

Creators can control usage, copying, and distribution, with legal consequences for infringement.

**Moral Rights Protection**

Moral rights ensure creators are credited and their work is not altered to harm reputation.

# Copyright Regulations for Computer Programs

### Legal Protection for Software

Computer programs are classified as literary works, granting them copyright protection under the law.

### Scope of Copyright

Only the expression of ideas in code is protected, not the underlying ideas themselves.

### Ownership and Collaboration

Regulations address ownership rights and stress the importance of written agreements in collaborative software development.

### Importance for Developers

These protections help developers safeguard their creations and control how their work is used and shared.

# Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment)



**Regulation Purpose**

These regulations protect employees using display screen equipment daily for an hour or more.

**Ergonomics and Breaks**

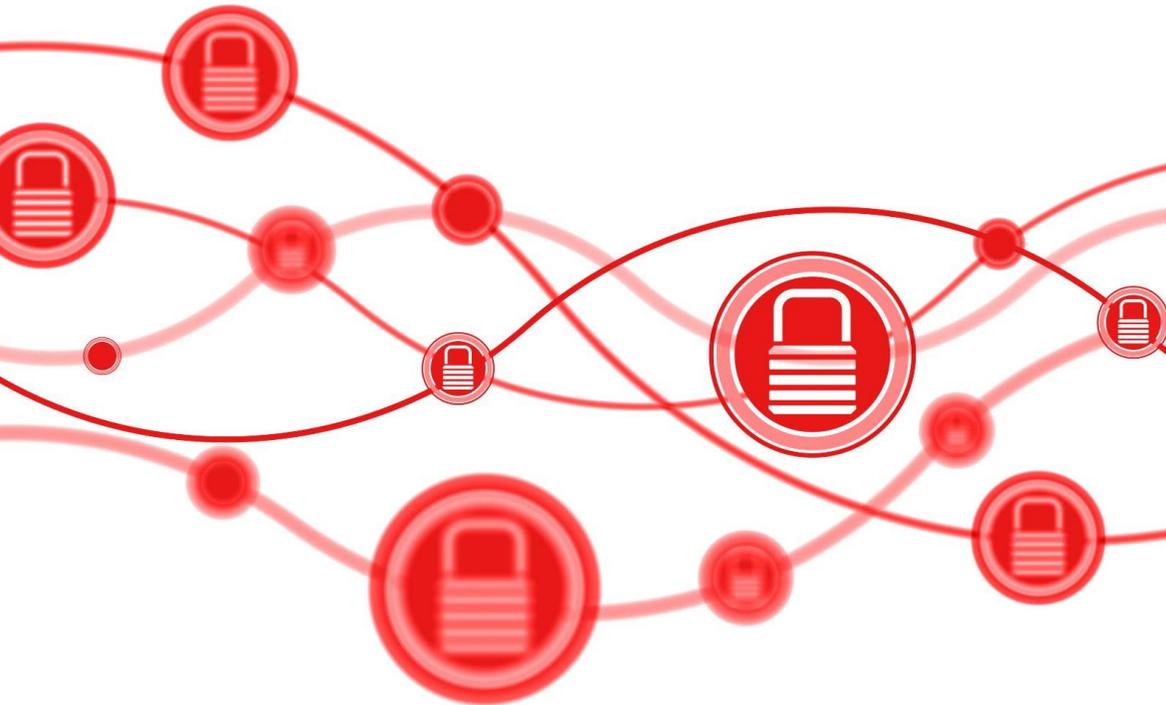Proper ergonomic setups and regular breaks prevent musculoskeletal disorders and eye strain.

**Employer Responsibilities**

Employers must assess workstations, provide training, free eye tests, and keep records.

**Work Environment Coverage**

Regulations cover fixed, mobile, and hot-desking work environments to ensure safety.

# Data Protection Legislation

**Legal Framework**

UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 regulate collection, use, and storage of personal data.

**Key Principles**

Data must be processed fairly, lawfully, transparently, and kept accurate and secure.

**Individual Rights**

Individuals can access, correct, or erase their personal data under these laws.

**Compliance Consequences**

Non-compliance may lead to fines and reputational damage for organizations.

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