MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN IT SYSTEMS

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Understanding responsibility and integrity in technology

Understanding Moral and Ethical Issues

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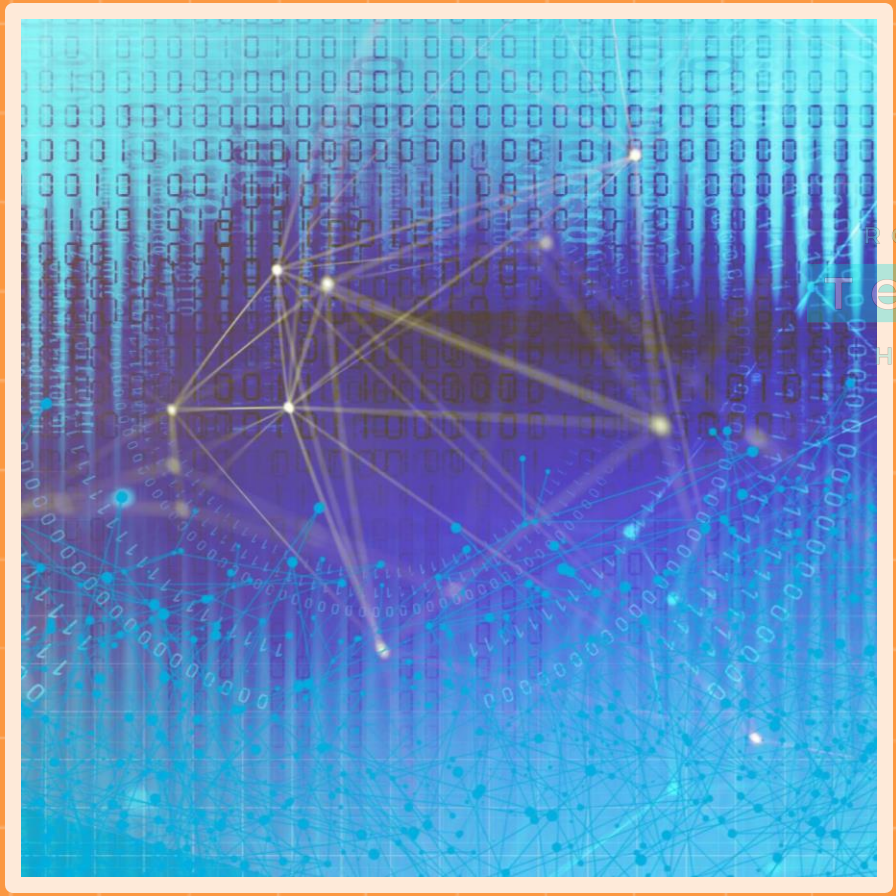
IT systems raise moral and ethical issues



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.

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Privacy and Environmental Impact

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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.

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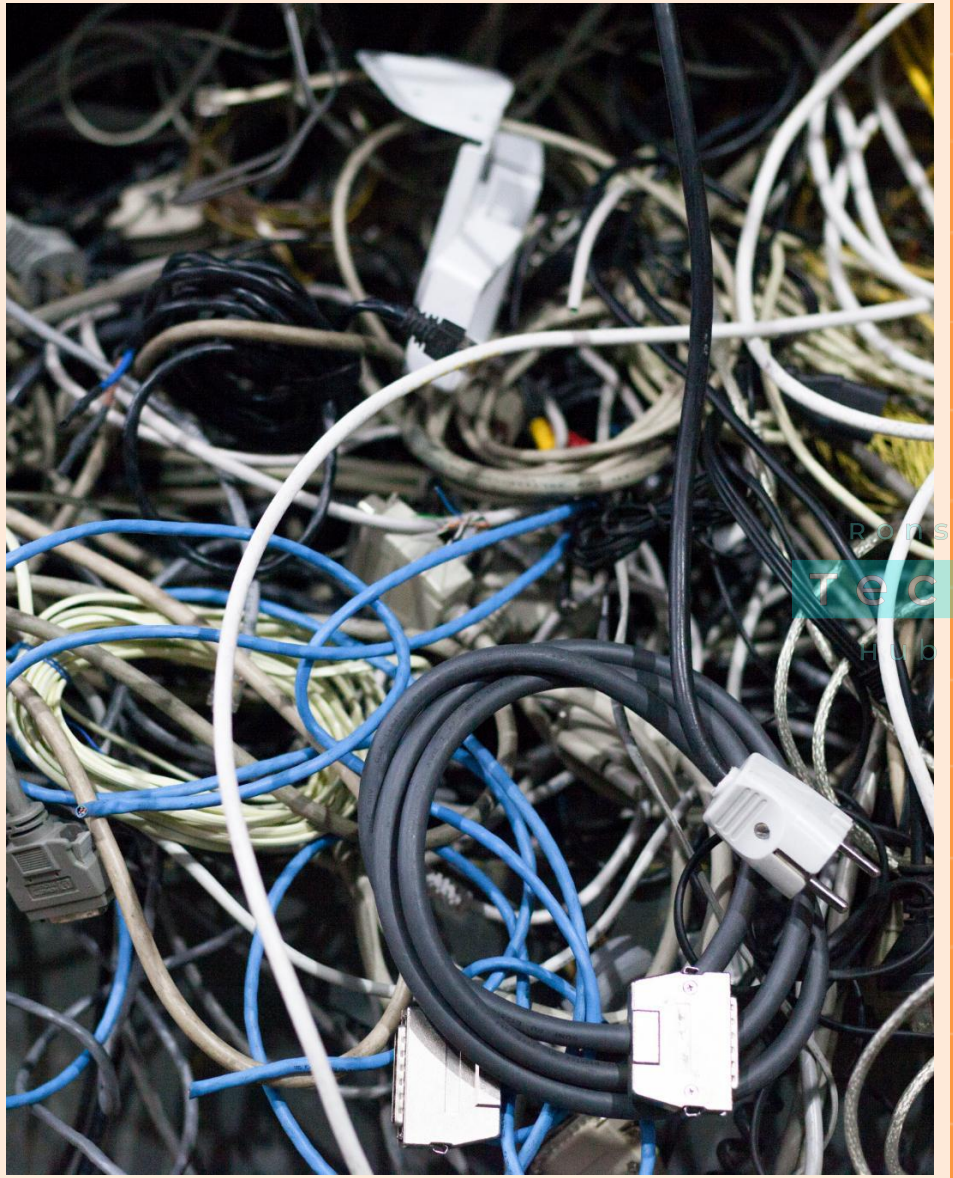

IT affects the environment

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.

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Access and Inclusion

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Not everyone has equal access to technology

Digital Divide Challenges

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

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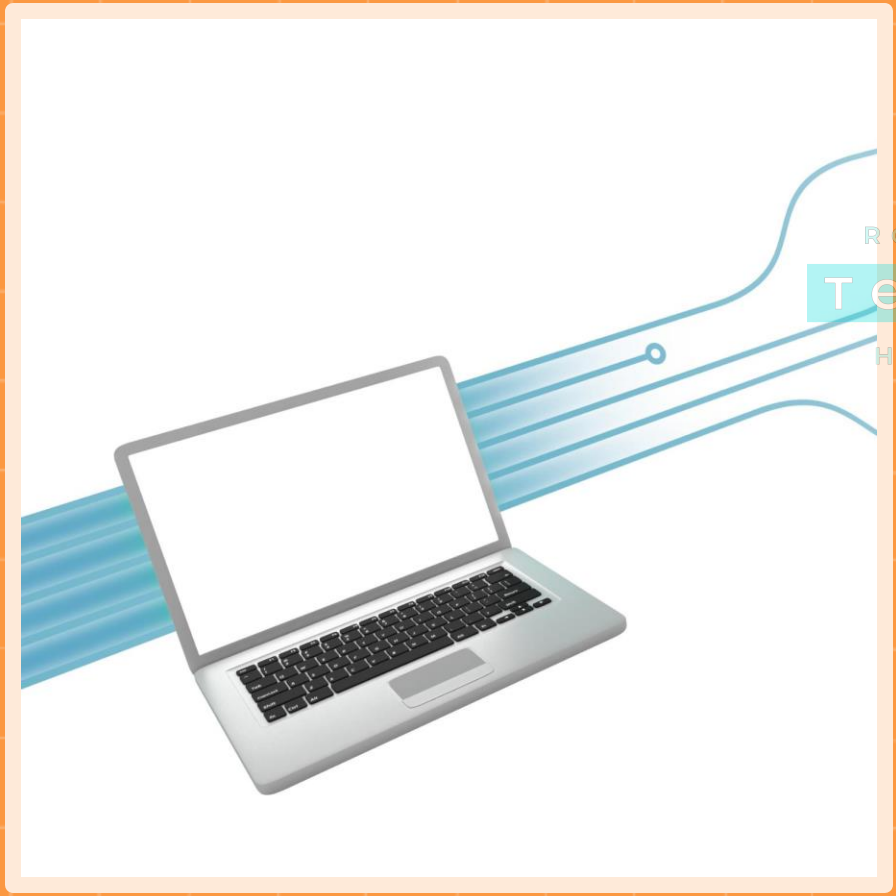
Impact on Opportunities

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.

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Online Behaviour and Policies

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Online behavior should follow netiquette

Respectful Online Communication

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

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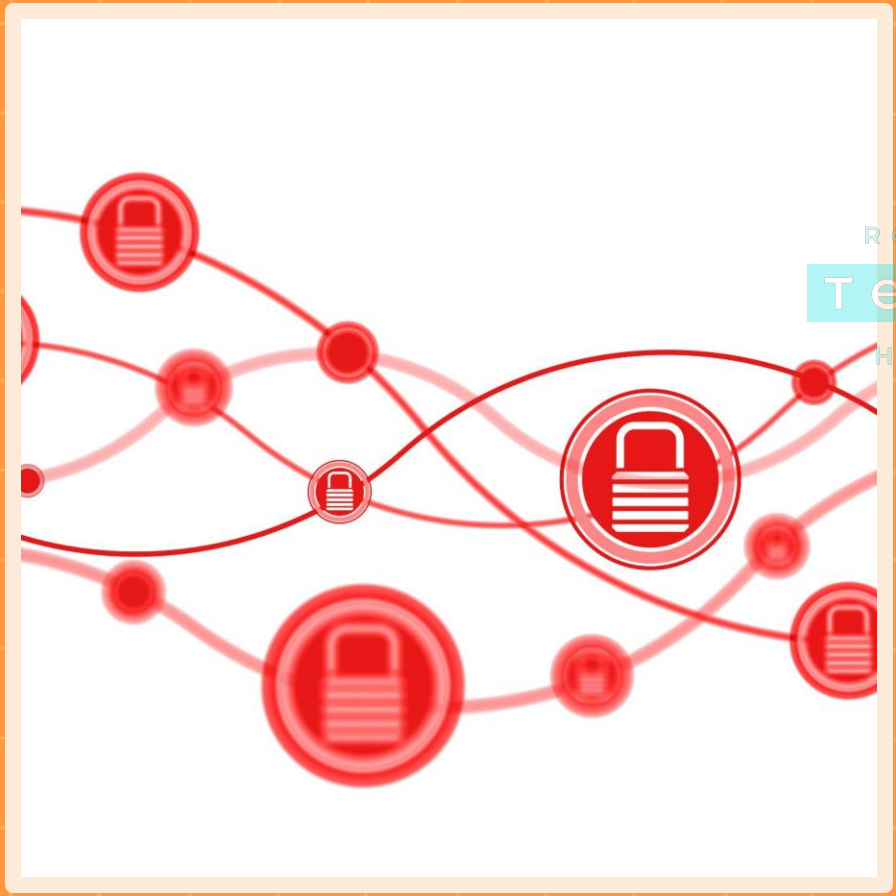
Privacy and Harm Prevention

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.

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Legal Issues in IT Systems

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Understanding legal challenges impacting technology infrastructure

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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.

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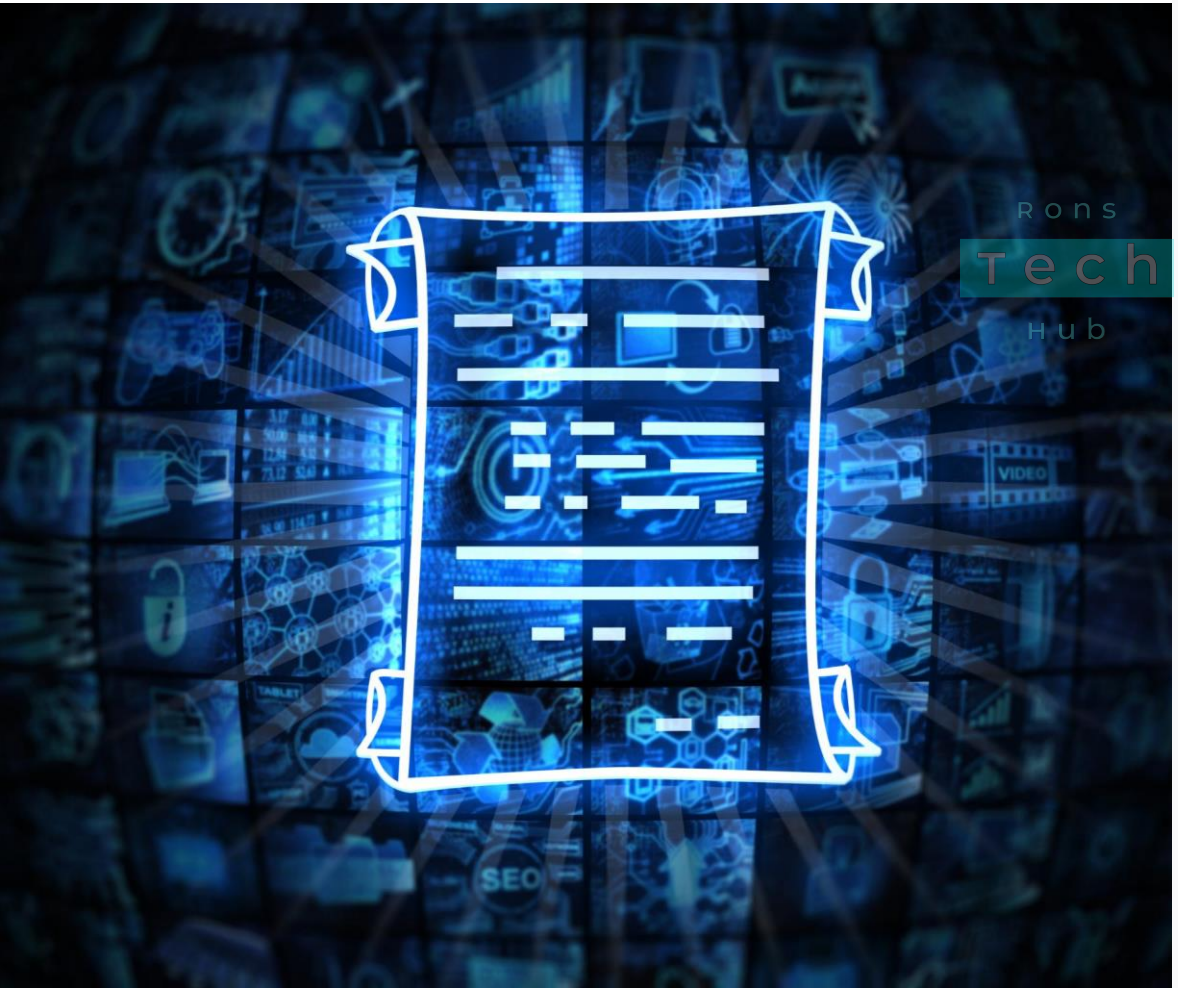
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act



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.

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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.

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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.

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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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