Case Study for Information Management 資訊管理個案

Ethical and Social Issues in Information Systems: Facebook (Chap. 4)

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Chap. 4 Ethical and Social Issues in Information Systems: Facebook

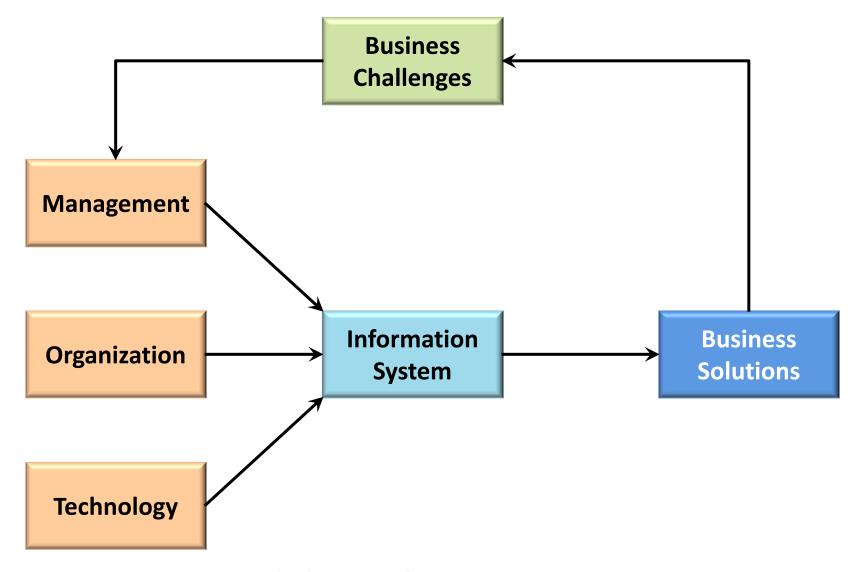
Case Study: Facebook (Chap. 4) (pp.188-190)

Facebook: It's about the Money

- 1. Perform an ethical analysis of Facebook.

 What is the ethical dilemma presented by this case?
- 2. What is the relationship of privacy to Facebook's business model?
- 3. Describe the weaknesses of Facebook's privacy policies and features. What management, organization, and technology factors have contributed to those weaknesses?
- 4. Will Facebook be able to have a successful business model without invading privacy? Explain your answer. Are there any measures Facebook could take to make this possible?

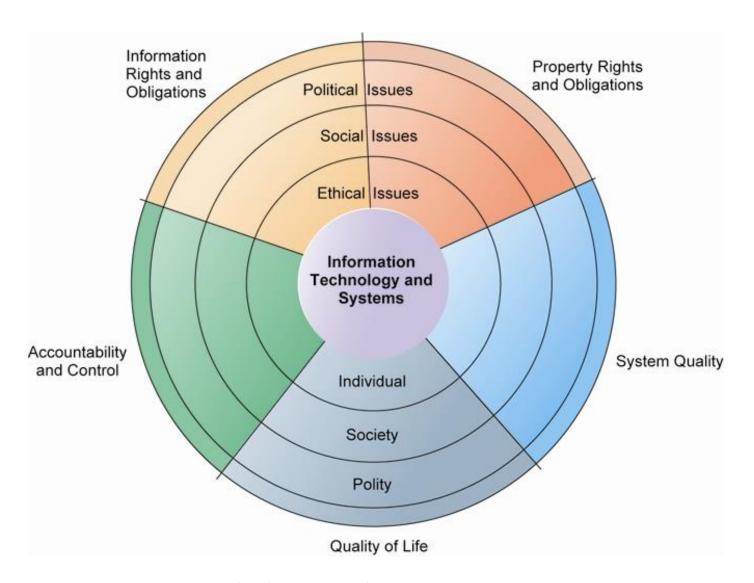
Overview of Fundamental MIS Concepts



Information Systems and Ethics

- Information systems raise new ethical questions because they create opportunities for:
 - Intense social change, threatening existing distributions of power, money, rights, and obligations
 - New kinds of crime

THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG ETHICAL, SOCIAL, POLITICAL ISSUES IN AN INFORMATION SOCIETY



A model for thinking about ethical, social, and political Issues

- Society as a calm pond
- IT as rock dropped in pond, creating ripples of new situations not covered by old rules
- Social and political institutions cannot respond overnight to these ripples—it may take years to develop etiquette, expectations, laws
 - Requires understanding of ethics to make choices in legally gray areas

Five moral dimensions of the information age

- 1. Information rights and obligations
- 2. Property rights and obligations
- 3. Accountability and control
- 4. System quality
- 5. Quality of life

Key technology trends that raise ethical issues

1. Doubling of computer power

 More organizations depend on computer systems for critical operations.

2. Rapidly declining data storage costs

 Organizations can easily maintain detailed databases on individuals.

3. Networking advances and the Internet

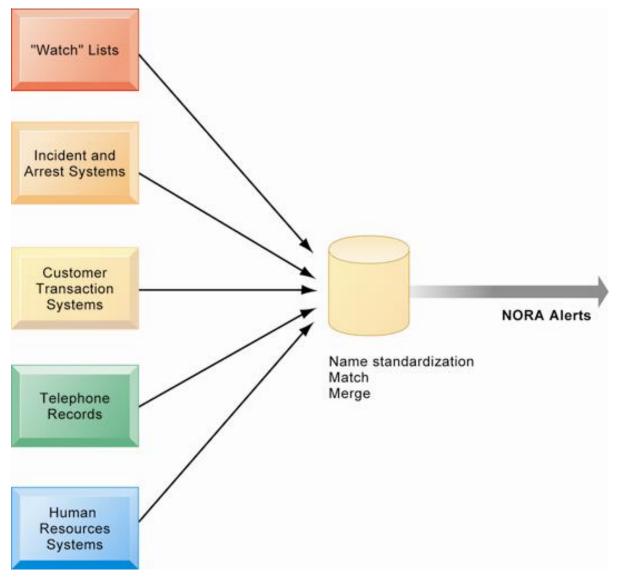
 Copying data from one location to another and accessing personal data from remote locations are much easier.

Key technology trends that raise ethical issues

4. Advances in data analysis techniques

- Profiling
 - Combining data from multiple sources to create dossiers of detailed information on individuals
- Nonobvious relationship awareness (NORA)
 - Combining data from multiple sources to find obscure hidden connections that might help identify criminals or terrorists
- 5. Mobile device growth
 - Tracking of individual cell phones

NONOBVIOUS RELATIONSHIP AWARENESS (NORA)



Basic concepts for ethical analysis

Responsibility:

- Accepting the potential costs, duties, and obligations for decisions
- Accountability:
 - Mechanisms for identifying responsible parties
- Liability:
 - Permits individuals (and firms) to recover damages done to them
- Due process:
 - Laws are well-known and understood, with an ability to appeal to higher authorities

Five-step ethical analysis

- 1. Identify and clearly describe the facts.
- 2. Define the conflict or dilemma and identify the higher-order values involved.
- 3. Identify the stakeholders.
- 4. Identify the options that you can reasonably take.
- 5. Identify the potential consequences of your options.

Information rights: privacy and freedom in the Internet age

Privacy:

- Claim of individuals to be left alone, free from surveillance or interference from other individuals, organizations, or state; claim to be able to control information about yourself
- In the United States, privacy protected by:
 - First Amendment (freedom of speech)
 - Fourth Amendment (unreasonable search and seizure)
 - Additional federal statues (e.g., Privacy Act of 1974)

Fair Information Practices (FIP)

- Set of principles governing the collection and use of information
 - Basis of most U.S. and European privacy laws
 - Based on mutuality of interest between record holder and individual
 - Restated and extended by FTC in 1998 to provide guidelines for protecting online privacy
- Used to drive changes in privacy legislation
 - COPPA
 - Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act
 - HIPAA
 - Do-Not-Track Online Act of 2011

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Fair Information Practices (FIP) principles

1. Notice/awareness (core principle)

 Web sites must disclose practices before collecting data.

2. Choice/consent (core principle)

 Consumers must be able to choose how information is used for secondary purposes.

3. Access/participation

 Consumers must be able to review and contest accuracy of personal data.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Fair Information Practices (FIP) principles

4. Security

 Data collectors must take steps to ensure accuracy, security of personal data.

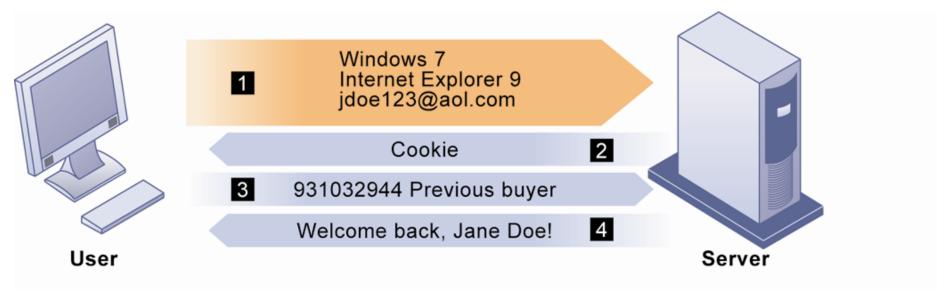
5. Enforcement

Must be mechanism to enforce FIP principles.

Internet challenges to privacy

- Cookies
 - Identify browser and track visits to site
 - Super cookies (Flash cookies)
- Web beacons (Web bugs)
 - Tiny graphics embedded in e-mails and Web pages
 - Monitor who is reading e-mail message or visiting site
- Spyware
 - Surreptitiously installed on user's computer
 - May transmit user's keystrokes or display unwanted ads
- Google services and behavioral targeting

HOW COOKIES IDENTIFY WEB VISITORS



- 1. The Web server reads the user's Web browser and determines the operating system, browser name, version number, Internet address, and other information.
- 2. The server transmits a tiny text file with user identification information called a cookie, which the user's browser receives and stores on the user's computer hard drive.
- 3. When the user returns to the Web site, the server requests the contents of any cookie it deposited previously in the user's computer.
- **4.** The Web server reads the cookie, identifies the visitor, and calls up data on the user.

Internet challenges to privacy

- The United States allows businesses to gather transaction information and use this for other marketing purposes.
 - Opt-out vs. opt-in model
- Online industry promotes self-regulation over privacy legislation.
- However, extent of responsibility taken varies:
 - Complex/ambiguous privacy statements
 - Opt-out models selected over opt-in
 - Online "seals" of privacy principles

Technical solutions for privacy

- E-mail encryption
- Anonymity tools
- Anti-spyware tools
- Browser features
 - "Private" browsing
 - "Do not track" options
- Overall, few technical solutions

Property rights: Intellectual property

- Intellectual property: intangible property of any kind created by individuals or corporations
- Three main ways that intellectual property is protected:
 - Trade secret: intellectual work or product belonging to business, not in the public domain
 - Copyright: statutory grant protecting intellectual property from being copied for the life of the author, plus 70 years
 - Patents: grants creator of invention an exclusive monopoly on ideas behind invention for 20 years

Challenges to intellectual property rights

- Digital media different from physical media (e.g., books)
 - Ease of replication
 - Ease of transmission (networks, Internet)
 - Difficulty in classifying software
 - Compactness
 - Difficulties in establishing uniqueness
- Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)
 - Makes it illegal to circumvent technology-based protections of copyrighted materials

Accountability, liability, control

- Computer-related liability problems
 - If software fails, who is responsible?
 - If seen as part of machine that injures or harms, software producer and operator may be liable.
 - If seen as similar to book, difficult to hold author/publisher responsible.
 - What should liability be if software seen as service?
 Would this be similar to telephone systems not being liable for transmitted messages?

System quality: Data quality and system errors

- What is an acceptable, technologically feasible level of system quality?
 - Flawless software is economically unfeasible.
- Three principal sources of poor system performance:
 - Software bugs, errors
 - Hardware or facility failures
 - Poor input data quality (most common source of business system failure)

Quality of life: Equity, access, boundaries

- Negative social consequences of systems
 - Balancing power: although computing power
 decentralizing, key decision making remains centralized
 - Rapidity of change: businesses may not have enough time to respond to global competition
 - Maintaining boundaries: computing, Internet use lengthens work-day, infringes on family, personal time
 - Dependence and vulnerability: public and private organizations ever more dependent on computer systems

Quality of life: Equity, access, boundaries

- Computer crime and abuse
 - Computer crime: commission of illegal acts through use of computer or against a computer system—computer may be object or instrument of crime
 - Computer abuse: unethical acts, not illegal
 - Spam: high costs for businesses in dealing with spam
- Employment:
 - Reengineering work resulting in lost jobs
- Equity and access—the digital divide:
 - Certain ethnic and income groups in the United States less likely to have computers or Internet access

Quality of life: Equity, access, boundaries

- Health risks
 - Repetitive stress injury (RSI)
 - Largest source is computer keyboards
 - Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)
 - Computer vision syndrome (CVS)
 - Eyestrain and headaches related to screen use
 - Technostress
 - Aggravation, impatience, fatigue

Case Study:

Amazon and Cloud Computing (Chap. 5) (pp. 234-236) Should Businesses Move to the Cloud?

- 1. What business benefits do cloud computing services provide? What problems do they solve?
- 2. What are the disadvantages of cloud computing?
- 3. How do the concepts of capacity planning, scalability, and TCO apply to this case? Apply these concepts both to Amazon and to subscribers of its services.
- 4. What kinds of businesses are most likely to benefit from using cloud computing? Why?

資訊管理個案

(Case Study for Information Management)

- 1. 請同學於資訊管理個案討論前 應詳細研讀個案,並思考個案研究問題。
- 2. 請同學於上課前複習相關資訊管理相關理論,以作為個案分析及擬定管理對策的依據。
- 3. 請同學於上課前 先繳交個案研究問題書面報告。

References

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