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Policy Analysis Three

With technology and IoT growing at such a rapid pace, its almost hard to keep up with all the advancements that are taken place each and every day. In order to partially control the different types of advancing technology, there are protocols/policies in place that companies have to follow in order to use this technology in a safe and effective manner. More specifically in regards to critical information and data, there are policies to keep important data in the safest of hands – that being the Data Classification and Handling Policy. The Data Classification and Handling Policy is specifically molded to fit many different company standards, but each version all has one common goal; to protect important company and employee personal data. Although enforcing this policy does an amazing job in classifying and handling data securely, there are some differentiating opinions on whether or not this policy is morally good or bad for the overall society. What will be discussed in this analysis today are the ethical implications of the Data Classification and Handling Policy.

In the matters of protecting and handling important data, ethical circumstances certainly arise and leave questions around the Data Classification and Handling Policy. For example, what happens if an ex-employee of a certain company releases important company secrets? Or what would happen if an employee at a hospital gave away confidential information of a patient? According to the Isaca Journal and the article “An Ethical Approach to Data Privacy Protection”,

the authors pinpoint a few concerns surrounding this policy; a few being the inappropriate use of data, the accuracy when collecting data about a person, persons or company as a whole, and the rights to inspect and correct the data (2016). In addition to these issues are the “hard and soft costs” that come with breaches of data, such as the compensation payments from lawsuits, financial penalties, reputational damages, and the loss of client trust (2016).

When discussing the Data Classification and Handling Policy, there are both costs and benefits to this policy. The costs regarding the overall protection of the data and what challenges come with simply following protocol, and the benefits regarding the protection of the data and the company as a whole. When referring to data handling in the realm of the law, the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics refer to “graymailing” as a defense tactic for criminals (or criminal defense lawyers) to unleash state secrets in order to manipulate, sway, or close the proceeding with prejudice (1998). How this relates to the ethical implications of the Data Classification and Handling Policy specifically is that this is a benefit for the criminal as they can scapegoat their way out of legal trouble. Because leveraging said information assists the criminal, this is a cost the state prosecutor has to consider as far as allowing the release of important State data, or to prosecute the criminal anyway despite the secret State information the criminal or criminal defense team carries.

When discussing the legalities of the Data Classification and Handling Policy, there isn’t one law that covers the privacy of all data. Instead, it is a combination of many other laws (such as HIPAA, FERPA, and COPPA) that cover specific types of data under that specific law (2021). With that being said, the more that user data (used in various apps like Grindr, Facebook, etc) is passed around between third party vendors and contractors, the easier it is for user data to be leaked (2021).

References

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