

IT 201 Assignment #4

While looking at basic ethical concepts for businesses there are three that are very important to remember. Those are responsibilities, accountability, and liability. In the textbook responsibility is the key element of ethical action. Having responsibility in a business is the acceptance of the potential costs and commitment. Accountability in a business or a workplace where people have to own up to mistakes recorded by machines or surveillance. Overall, doing what is right instead of shifting blame creates newer and more problems. Liability is an extension of responsibility in areas of law. These can often be mixed up because they are so similar. All three of these are basic ethical concepts that need to be kept in mind.

While studying ethical principles there are some elementary ones and some that are most advanced. The textbook highlights six main ones. First is called the golden rule this is a title given to a lot of principles but in ethics it means, do unto others as you would have them do unto you. To simplify this, it is saying if this is taken into account your decisions would be fairer. The next comes from the philosopher Immanuel Kant and who stated if action is not right for everyone to take it is not right for anyone. He is saying that if a decision is not right for everyone then it's not the one to take. This is called Kant's categorical imperative. Next is the slippery slope rule, if an action cannot be taken repeatedly, it is not the right to take it at all. This takes decisions that might have good results but is repeated and could have drastically different results. Just a reminder since it worked in the past it's not always going to work again. The fourth principle is called the utilitarian principle, and it is to take the action that achieves a higher or greater value. This principle takes into account that all actions in a decision have consequences that can be ordered and judging by that someone can choose the best one. The risk aversion principle is to take the action that produces the least harm or the least potential cost. Mean to avoid actions and decisions that have huge failure costs and focus on reducing the probability of them occurring. Lastly, the final principle is called the ethical no-free lunch rule. It's to have the assumption that everything is owned by someone unless declared otherwise. This one is a good one to keep in mind because if not you someone could come under attention for theft of a so thought-free item.

Since the creation of the internet, it has challenged the protection of individual privacy and intellectual property. Most people think of the privacy of individuals to be left alone from anything. But the internet has changed that dramatically, for example, can be left alone physically but if they are using anything connected to the internet, they are far from alone. There is such strong surveillance nowadays that is truly difficult to get private privacy. Just searching any website on any device there is the risk of cookies, web beacons, and spyware. Intellectual property was changed forever since the creation of the internet. This is because if someone creates something and then posts it online the chances of the idea if not patented or copyrighted will be stolen very quickly. These can almost be described as fast followers because if someone creates something genuinely new people will jump onto the idea and make the slightest adjustments and claim the entire IP.

Four main regimes can protect intellectual property rights. There are some that most people are familiar with and others not so much. Starting with copyright this protection prevents others from creating the same product and trying to make a profit from it. The copyright protection lasts the duration of the inventor's life and an additional 75 years. This is to ensure that the creator is recognized as the inventor of said product. Patents are similar to copyrights but it allows the owner an exclusive monopoly on the product or idea for 20 years. Then we have trademarks this can be an image or a symbol that allows consumers to differentiate companies on certain products. For example, if someone dislikes a company, they will look for a logo or trademark to stay as far away as possible from their products. Lastly, we have trade secrets this can be many different things. Such as formulas, devices, patterns, or a collection of data used for business purposes. One thing that many people forget that is the information that people want to be protected by a trade secret can not be in the public domain. These four main regimes protect individuals' ideas, products, and services.

Out of the six main ethical principles, there is one that I will for sure take into account while creating my pc repair business. First is the risk aversion principle this is because taking action with the least potential cost will intern save money, that can be used elsewhere in the business. Then the other side of this principle is the path of least harm. For me, I would use this principle for the computer that I am repairing, instead of myself. I will not cut corners to save time while doing my job because the health of the pc is the main priority This principle will help to ensure that.