

The Legal System Response to Technological Advancements

Name: Daisy Gonzalez

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Details:

Information technology has far reaching affects. It transcends any one discipline and has influenced all aspects of human life; including the way that crime is committed. From the growth of technology and the internet, cybercrime has had the ability to thrive; so much so that the legal system has not kept pace. As a result, existing laws and policies do not adequately address crimes involving information technology. Unless legislation adapts, this problem will only worsen as technology continues to rapidly advance.

Legislative bodies need to develop more comprehensive laws and policies. To start, they should begin with expanding their knowledge of information technology and the ways in which it can be used to commit crime. Crimes like theft and stalking are not just committed in person anymore; today these crimes can be committed online, with little resources and detection. Laws and policies should address this phenomena clearly. Victims should be able to recognize and prove that they are a victim of cyber stalking just as well as they would if they were subjected to stalking in-person. Thus, cybercrime definitions should be clear and complete as well.

Additionally, considering that cybercrime can be committed from virtually anywhere in the world, all states should agree on cybercrime-related definitions and any subsequent charges and procedures.

Action is required from more than just legislative bodies if cybercrime, and any other harmful behavior committed over the internet, is to be mitigated. Forums, social media sites, and other websites should have moderators, whose responsibility is to remove harmful content before it is able to have an impact. Finally, reporting cyber crime needs to be made easy. People should be informed on immediate actions to take in the event that they are the victim of a cybercrime. If legislation is unable to keep pace with advancements in technology, cybercrime will continue to have far-reaching negative consequences.

References

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