What is the Acceptable Use Policy?

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The acceptable use policy (also known as AUPs) is a widely known and used policy throughout countless organizations and businesses, with the sole intent of ensuring effective security guidelines on company resources as well as compliance with data and information privacy laws (Firch, 2024). Mainly being sourced in the information technologies area of expertise, data needs multiple methods of security to ensure that employees as well as customers and guest are using the company's technology correctly and ethically. The guidelines that are associated with each and every company solely depends on how the company or organization itself operates. This can range from data and information being protected on the user level, to making users acknowledge that their data may be used for company development or use.

This was developed to have a written document or guidelines stating that factors that influence organizational security and protection of resources and assets. This aids in preventing misuse and unauthorized access to resources and actions that could impact the reputation of the company itself (Aware, 2024). Being able to organize of liabilities that can occur from the misuse of computer facilities and research as well the Internet helps in the creation and progress of the business process (Laughton, 2008). This policy was also developed to articulate the methods of using said computer systems and access in proper and improper ways. It was created to educate users on these crucial factors when being faced with certain situations and actions in the workplace.

The acceptable use policy is a policy that changes depending on how the company itself operates. Most organizations that partner with or have some type of relationship with IT systems and security benefit from this type of policy. Whether it is a fast-food restaurant implementing this policy in order to protect the access and use of cash management in safes and the cash registers, to a retail store protecting the access of their internet usage, this policy reflects the

needs of all situations in the public and private sectors (Aware, 2024). It is applied in a multitude of ways, such as a guideline document that highlights the dos and don’ts of accessing and protecting computer resources. From here, it is used as a method of educating users on multiple facets of the company resources and actions. This document holds a specific purpose for the company, and it explains who is able to access technologies and resources within the organization, as well as what to do if a user takes notice of illegal or immoral behavior regarding said resources (University of Tennessee, 2024). In case of application, this can mean ensuring that users document and take notice of actions detrimental to the company itself.

This policy fits within a national/international cybersecurity policy by being the basis behind an institutions IT infrastructure (Doherty, 2010). It should focus on adding on and addressing problems relating to the other policies within the infrastructure, and to answer those questions that the other policies do not. It is a policy that is needed in every organization made because it clearly states all guidelines in a coherent and effective manner, focusing on the goal of improving the reputation and progress of the organizations IT systems and technologies (Doherty, 2010). Since the acceptable use policy is such an open and varied policy/method, it can take shape to fit every criterion within a company’s standards. It can address protections on the consumer level as well as the employee level. It works in tandem with other laws and regulations, such as privacy laws for usage of email and internet, and BYOD policies with employees using “their personal devices for work purposes”(Aware, 2024).

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