

What are the Ethical Implications of the Acceptable Use Policy?

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When faced with the ethical implications of a policy like the acceptable use policy (AUP), one must consider how their guidelines will impact their clientele as well as their associates within the company itself. The rights and privacies of the workplace and its people relies on a moral/ethical standing regarding the rules and regulations of the company. When certain rights are limited and disregarded, many problems can come about, creating a detrimental circumstance for everyone involved. AUP's aim to regulate and reserve user actions and behaviors in order to protect important data and resources. The main ethical issue is how a company manages to balance and uphold user rights as well as company assets and resources.

This takes place in the form of rights and permissions that the employees have towards certain actions and events (Dubicki, 2003). The type of AUP that is established within the company must be able to provide reasoning for its implementation, otherwise it can be considered as a bias or unfair standing towards specific individuals or interests (Saylor, 2024). This process involves multiple steps, being the business reason, the scope of the AUP itself, a document explaining the use of company resources, and documentation of expectation of privacy (Dubicki, 2003). Without this foundation in regard to AUP's, privacy concerns are a huge issue as well as certain freedoms such as freedom of speech and expression. Over restrictiveness is a problem since it can lead to low-risk problems having high end results. Rights that concern user security and monitoring can become troublesome if the guidelines allow too extensive watch over the users and their actions. User freedoms can be limited through guidelines prohibiting certain websites and links from being opened (Doherty, 2011). Ensuring the consequences are equal to the level of violation it is faced with is important in keeping ethicality possible within a company.

AUP's address individuals' rights through the means of procedure and law enforcement.

Within a company, growth and ethics are brought up by acknowledgement and understanding of a certain set of rules and tribulations.

References

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