

## Foreword

Everyday each one of us face choices that call for decisions; some major and others minor. These decisions are often influenced by a set of guidelines, adherence to laws, our morals and/or ethics. In most situations these guidelines are straightforward (at least perceivably) for each situation we encounter. In today's information rich and technology dependent culture, many of the lines are blurred when it comes to how we interact and use technology- making informed decisions more difficult. The devices, software and other technology designed to make our lives easier, have in many situations made our lives more complicated when it comes to ethics and laws. Issues that did not exist in the past, now must be addressed and scrutinized, and new laws developed. In many instances however, old crimes and social issues have been reinvented or exacerbated by these new technologies. A cyber criminal can be hiding in one part of the world committing crimes in another part using someone else's identity. Not only does the crime itself need to be analyzed, but also the laws that are being violated and the country. What may be legal or ethically sound for one location may be illegal in another. Other such issues arise from organizations and businesses not fully understanding their vulnerabilities, or computer based crime and/or their responsibilities to protect their data. Social networks have also changed the legal landscape by adding new dimensions of vulnerability and social engineering through the creation of our online digital selves. We spend so much time constructing our online representation, but forget that the information we post online can sometimes be used against us. These types of problems are just a few mentioned in this book as it aims to highlight many mainstream global ethical and legal problems caused or amplified by technology.

With this book, *Investigating Cyber Law and Cyber Ethics: Issues, Impacts and Practices*, observations can be made about the impact of technology, software and the Internet through a legal and ethical point of view. Three main sections provide the framework for the book, which include: Section 1: Legal and Jurisdictional Issues Regarding Cyberspace, Section 2: Legal and Ethical Implications involving Social Networks and Virtual Worlds; and Section 3: Legal and Ethical Implications in Cyberspace – An International Perspective. Through these divisions, a unique collection of articles, research initiatives, essays and discussions are presented with the objective to provide readers with an international view of current trends in these growing areas of importance.

Today cyber technologies have significant impact on privacy, security and individual rights. IT professionals and educators must have a working knowledge of the professional, ethical, legal, security and social issues and responsibilities associated with these technologies. They must be aware of and adhere to the ethical standards of the profession as they formulate solutions to meet user needs in an organizational and societal context. The nature of their involvement with implementing and managing

information and communication technologies requires IT professionals to be aware of relevant legal statutes and procedures including computer crime rules of evidence, evidence seizure and handling, as well as court presentation.

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