

ABSTRACT

Numerous colleges and higher educational institutions have turn out to be profoundly reliant on computers and information systems for educational purposes. That exposes them to various ethical issues such as unauthorized access and use of computer systems, software piracy and information privacy. This paper reports on a study of computer security and ethics awareness among students in UiTM Shah Alam. One hundred twenty eight (128) student volunteers attending participated in the survey. A concise questionnaire consisting of 39 questions was used. The questionnaire had three major parts. The first part is respondent demographic. The second part measured the participant's awareness of computer security. The third part measured their awareness of ethical computer use. Thus from the results of the study, in general UiTM Shah Alam student had a satisfactory awareness of computer security and ethics which is rank in medium level. However, it is obvious that almost half of the student volunteers in this survey breach in the area of computer security are intolerable and the infringement of the code of ethics is unpleasant. To help students at UiTM Shah Alam increase their awareness of security and ethical issues, the researcher provided several recommendations.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The spread of computer networks and microcomputers has lead to the rapid expansion of communication via computer conferencing, electronic mail, computer bulletin boards, and other forms of electronic communications such as on-line surveys. Many campuses have implemented or are in the process of implementing campus-wide information systems which make access to information services as easy as using the campus phone system. Unfortunately, there are great challenges for the people involved in the management of information system to provide appropriate measures to protect their system. Experts in computer security agree that, related to computers, universities are among the least secure places in the universe. Audits of university security systems reveal a large number of weaknesses. Among these weaknesses is lack of student awareness of computer security and ethics. Although the results from several surveys of student awareness have been reported from majority universities, there is no data that relates to the UiTM Shah Alam student population on the issue of computer security and ethics awareness. The proposed explore the ethical problems and issues raised in the computing environment. Higher educational institutions must prepare students to deal with conflicting situations that they will face in their professional life. They should be cultured to adopt moral responsible and having ethical decision making.

In this paper researcher further investigate the effect of demographic factors on the ethical awareness for computer use and computer security. Researcher intention is to examine the level on the computer security and ethical awareness of UiTM students. In addressing this issue this paper is organized into five sections. Following the introduction, the second section sketches out literature review. Section three presents the