Introduction

Technology has increased the potential for unethical practices and behavior. Of course, the meaning of ethical behavior is open to interpretation. Many people think certain practices are ethical while others believe those same practices are unethical. One example is that 54 percent of people believe that using the office PC for personal online shopping is unethical, which means the other 46 percent think it is ethical.

Additionally, technology has made it much easier to do unethical things such as downloading inappropriate material from the Internet as well as stealing private information about another individual. Laws are currently being written trying to combat privacy and copyright issues.

Companies are developing ethics training programs, which specify the difference between ethical and unethical. These programs help diminish the potential for serious ethical problems and advise people on what to do when they see fellow employees engaged in unethical practices. Now let’s take a closer look at education and ethics in the workplace and how they are affected by technology.

Education

Companies dealing in education have also been faced with dealing with new ethical challenges as a result of new technology. The following ethics statement provides clearly stated values and guidelines through which technologies are responsibly admitted, acquired and used within an educational setting or institution.

1. Human Value - To make technology, information, and technological tools of service to human process and growth including creative, spiritual, emotional, and thinking processes.

2. Human Responsibility - To negotiate intelligently with technology by taking responsibility for our choices and consequences and by knowing what technology can do, cannot do, and can undo.

3. Internal Human Ecological and Community Concerns - To integrate technology into our institution in such a way as to support positive growth of human educational processes and instruction, and to provide built-in evaluative means that protect internal human ecological aspects of our community that all technology necessarily affects.

4. Confidentiality and Privacy - To respect human rights to privacy, to avoid intrusion and abuse of these rights, and to avoid placing all information on equal levels, access to specific information will not be loosely available.

5. Contribution through History - To contribute to the education of our youth by giving them a sense of coherence, continuity, and inter-relatedness in their studies and a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives, history is the central discipline.

6. Technological Admission, Acquisition and Use - To make the admission, acquisition, and use of technology intelligent by understanding what the designed function of the technology is, its content and its context of use, and to make the admission, acquisition and use of technology subject to the binding jurisdiction of this institution's educational, social, and organizational intents and authority.
Technology advances business ethics in the workplace

Many companies have developed business ethics training programs. These programs, which assert company standards and core values, are considered critical, as today's stakeholders demand that corporations - and their employees - follow socially responsible business practices.

The complexity of business ethics has made training a time-consuming task. Many programs are broad, geared toward defining values and developing the decision-making skills needed to address a wide spectrum of ethical dilemmas. Now, new technologies are helping companies develop programs that advance these workplace principles quickly and effectively.

In addition to assuring that employees understand and abide by the company's value system, effective ethics and business conduct programs can strengthen company reputation and decrease vulnerability. This turns should increase employee commitment to the organization as well as customer loyalty. Technological advances will continue to enhance the ethics-training environment, allowing employers to develop business ethics programs that effectively reach their employees.

Conclusion

I have demonstrated how ethics has been influenced by new and emerging technologies. Companies now realize that new ethical standards have to be incorporated into their code of conduct and training programs. Employees must be aware of what the company considers ethical and unethical. I also have discussed the education, and how this relates to ethical issue. It clearly showed how technology has put a new spin on business ethics and discussed how the law, as well as people, view ethics and what they consider to be right and wrong.

References: