Introduction to the “Ethical Issues in Organizational Information Systems” Mini-track

Sutirtha Chatterjee
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
sutirtha.chatterjee@unlv.edu

Abstract
This is a short introduction to the mini-track “Ethical Issues in Organizational Information Systems at HICSS 2015. It discusses the relevance and scope of the mini-track, the paper(s) to be presented, and thoughts on future academic research on ethical issues in IS.

1. Introduction: Relevance of the Mini-track
Ethics, an understanding of what is good and bad, has great impact and relevance, especially for organizations as sociopolitical systems [2]. While the prior notion was that ethical and economic considerations often are in conflict, more recent observations suggest that ethical considerations likely lead to business success [2, 3], a particularly important observation in light of the current financial crisis.

Such observations inspired this mini-track. Especially, development, implementation, and management of IT in today’s organizations carry significant ethical connotations [1]. Noting this large scale relevance of ethics to the IS discipline, the purpose of this mini-track was to solicit research that furthers our understanding of ethical implications relevant to the design, development, management, implementation, and impact of organizational IS.

2. Paper(s) in this Mini-track
In this year, this mini-track will feature the presentation of a paper by Alaskar, Vodanovich, and Shen. In this research, the authors systematically review Information Security research while incorporating an ethical perspective. Based on this critical review of the literature, they propose future directions for research.

Traditionally the ethical angle has been neglected in IS security research [5]. I believe that this paper will generate important questions and discussions such as: Why is ethics important to IS Security? What has been done about ethics in IS Security? How do different ethical lenses inform IS Security? What can be done to further incorporate ethical considerations in IS Security research? All of these are relevant considerations for today’s organizations.

3. Looking to the Future
I hope that research/discussions stimulated by this mini-track would be instrumental in energizing research in this very relevant arena. As noted by Chatterjee and Sarker [1], it would require a collective effort on parts of the IS academic community to delve into the relevant but challenging analyses of ethical aspects of IS, such as those in IT-enabled collaboration, green IT, and security [4].

To summarize, I hope that this mini-track will stimulate more IS research on IT-related ethical issues, thereby expanding the frontiers of ethics-related research in IS.

4. References