

Information Ethics in Africa

Digital Wellness Workshop

In collaboration with the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) and
Civilian Secretariat for Police (CSP)

Information Ethics Definition:

Information ethics (IE) is a descriptive and emancipatory discipline dealing with the study of the changes in the relationship between people and the world due to information and communication technologies. IE in Africa provides a unique platform to build an Information and Knowledge Society driven by critical reflection on ethos and values within the African Context. It addresses opportunities and challenges unique to the development of African societies.

Date: 21 August 2015

Time: Full day

Place: Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, South Africa



African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics

IT 6-46.1 • Department Information Science • Information Technology Building
University of Pretoria • Private Bag X20 • Hatfield • 0028 • South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)12 420 5218 • E-mail: aceie@up.ac.za

www.up.ac.za/aceie

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Workshop to discuss the need and possible framework for policy design on matters related to Digital Wellness in South Africa

1. Introduction

Following some national- and international research, the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE) at the University of Pretoria wish to present to you a number of ideas to consider the need and possible framework for policy design on matters related to Digital Wellness in South Africa.

The proposed workshop is much needed as an African based International Programme on aspects of policy development that is directly related to aspects of Digital Security, Cyber Crime and Crime Prevention. The event will also be the first to focus particularly on policing, policy development and human behaviour towards safe access to safe information.

The focus will observe practical aspects of human trafficking, drug trafficking and terrorism on the internet. These policing matters as well as the vulnerability of banks and businesses will also form part of this project. Based on the SAPS project of safer schools eventually the workshop should also look at crime prevention among young people and in the school environment.

The ACEIE propose this workshop in support of your vision and would suggest that this workshop be followed by an international conference in this topic in 2016.

2. Rationale and Motivation

We are living in an information and knowledge era and the ethical issues surrounding the use and access of information touch the lives of all people and nearly all levels. One of these levels is that of public policies and the official regulation of the flow of information. Other levels include the use of personal and private information by individuals, companies and the state. Increasing broadband facilities and wider internet availability contribute also to the commodification of information and thus information has become the commodity of the 21st century and it is becoming more easily available, faster in access and cheaper in volumes. These are some of the assets and benefits of the modern information society. However, like in most societies there are those who will enjoy the benefit of these assets and those who will misuse the same opportunity. Other will simply be excluded.

The misuses of information and the accompanied info structure can lead to personal and financial harm, damages and suffering to those who are victims as a result of the misuse of information. These are known as cyber-crimes. In practice cyber-crimes are experienced as identity theft, banking fraud,

cyber bullying, cyber scams and hacking to get access to other people's information. Like in the case of any criminal activities there might be many reasons for cyber-crime but due to the loss and harm caused by this new form of information based criminality, the society at large expects some form of prevention and counter measure to protect individuals, groups and companies from this form of crime. In addition to personal awareness and responsibilities to prevention cyber-crimes deterrence can also be motivated by rules and policies with related penalties or punishment. Many of these practices are in place in the private sector but it seems that public policies and legislation lack behind in the formulation and implementation of appropriate legislation and policies. In some countries governmental policies selected to disallow or strongly discourage access to information. This apparent easy way out proved to harm communities resulting in a direct lack of education and development for people living in those societies.

The balance of increased access to information and effective public policies to curb criminal activities seems to be a challenge. Unrestricted open access to information and related technologies seems to go hand-in-hand with increased cyber-crime.

3. Focus of responsibility

It is understood that the office of the Civilian Secretariat of the Police serves as technical advisor to the Minister of Police and performs advisory functions on various matters that include providing the Minister with policy advice and research support. In support of these objectives the ACEIE and various other academic institutions as well as Civilian Partnerships would like to share research results related to cyber-crime, structures to prevent and systems to address the consequences of cyber-crime. This workshop also aims to provide guidelines to enhance awareness of cyber security in communities and households. The outcomes of the workshop hope to highlight a clear understanding of the direct link between personal awareness, digital safety and ethical behaviour on the one side and unethical personal behaviour and cyber-crime on the opposing side. The programme thus envisages a future information society with safe access to safe information.

Theme of the SAPS and Civilian Partnerships for Digital Wellness Workshop

Serve and Protect in a digital safe and cyber-crime free South Africa - developing policies, structures, skills and guidelines for a professional SAPS

4. Objectives of the Workshop

- To coordinate research on the reality of human behaviour on the internet as it links to cybercrime and SAPS structures to prevent, investigate and manage the results of cybercrime and digital wellness
- To discuss guidelines, procedures and systems to address the consequences of cyber-crime.
- To discuss guidelines towards enhanced awareness of digital safety and cyber security in government, civil society, private sector, and households.

- To develop understanding of the direct link between personal awareness, digital safety and ethical behaviour on the one side and unethical personal behaviour and cyber-crime on the opposing side.
- To develop a policy structure for best practices in South African with an openness towards views, assessments and understanding of internal matters to fully participate in regional and Africa Union discussions, agreements and conventions
- To prepare a proposal for a sustainable, scientific and practical platform of support to the African Union.
- To observe and learn from international conventions and global guidelines

5. *Expected outcomes of the Programme*

- Policy guidelines
- Clarification and possible standardisation on concepts and terminology
- A possible group of advisors to the Office of the Civilian Secretariat for Police
- A formal report on the workshop proceedings, outcomes and recommendations
- Considering an International Conference on the topics

Suggested Workshop programme

08:00 Guests arrive at the venue

- Registration
- Coffee and tea is served

08:30 Call to order

- Welcoming remarks by the Acting Secretariat
- Discussion of the Objectives

PART ONE: Government perspectives

08:50 Inclusive and international perspective by the Ministry of Police including an overview of the *'SAPS Safer Schools Project'*

09:10 Presentation by SAPS

09:30 Presentation by NICOC

09:50 Presentation by DTTPS

10:10 Panel: Questions and Answers

- Discussion and debate

10:30 Refreshments

PART TWO: Overview of current research

11:00 Presentation by ACEIE

11:20 Presentation by UJ

11:40 Academic presentation 3

12:00 Panel: Questions and Answers

- Discussion and debate

12:30 Light lunch

PART THREE: Civil Society and Business

13:00 Presentation by Intel

13:20 Presentation by Business against Crime

13:40 Presentation by NSTF

14:00 Panel: Questions and Answers

- Discussion and debate

PART FOUR: Conclusions and the way forward

14:30 Facilitation of conclusions and the way forward – ACEIE

15:00 Vote of thanks

15:15 Closing

- Departure