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Cyber Law Workshop: Adding a Course to Your Curriculum

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ABSTRACT

The internet has created enormous changes in a number of areas including our laws. An emerging specialty within law is cyber law. Our legal system has evolved in a physical and visual world, but cyber space is largely invisible and virtual. Past legal decisions or legal precedence has been important in our system and reasoning by analogy has been used extensively. In many cases the laws applied in the physical realm do not translate equally well into cyber space. This workshop will discuss the importance of this area to an MIS/CIS/IT program, legal issues that need to be addressed, and provide a sample syllabus and other resources.

Keywords

Law, cyber space, curriculum

Cyber Law is an emerging specialty within the legal field and an area that information systems professionals need to address. The global emergence of cyberspace has created a number of new legal issues as well as causing changes in existing laws. The current approach to resolving legal problems usually relies on legal precedence and reasoning by analogy. This approach which has developed and worked in the physical world for centuries may not always translate into the virtual world and cyberspace.

This workshop will examine the following topics:

1. The need and value of adding a course in Cyber Law.

2. Finding or growing instructors.

3. Appropriate level and prerequisites to the course.

4. Discussion of the resources available (on-line, printed materials, textbooks, cases, etc.)

5. Sample Syllabus

    a. Background

    b. Ethics, morality, and the law

    c. Overview of Property Law, Tort Law, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Contract Law.

    d. Intellectual Property

    e. Criminal Conduct and Computer Forensics

    f. Privacy and Adult Materials

    g. Contracts in Cyberspace

    h. Torts in Cyberspace

    i. Other concepts and Issues

        i. Jurisdiction

        ii. Officer and Directory Liability

        iii. Regulatory Issues

iv.   International Laws

v.   Cyber Wars and the LOAC