Assignment 1: Privacy, Laws, and Security Measures

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Protecting digital information against privacy and security issues is the most important concern for all modern businesses. Most of the businesses strive to provide flexible e-commerce services to their customers that require extensive amounts of private data to be processed for business operations. Storage and processing of sensitive information such as social security numbers, contact details, and credit card information for payment processing have made businesses a potential target of cyber criminals (Weiss & Archick, 2016). Organizations are facing privacy issues as customers are becoming more vigilant about the privacy of their personal information. Where every organization claims to be the best in privacy protection, the headlines are filled with news of successful data breaches compromising personal information.

Cyber-criminals discover vulnerabilities in information systems and exploit them to gain access to private information stored in the systems. In the given scenario for a retail store, the information such as social security numbers, credit card details can be compromised by criminals. Protection of such sensitive information is the responsibility of the organization collecting the details from customers. The European Union has implemented a general data protection regulation known as GDPR. As per GDPR, the individuals in Europe have extensive privacy rights regarding their digital information (Allen, 2016). In the United States, there is no single data protection legislation. However, various privacy and data protection regulations are implemented at national as well as state levels. For example, the HIPAA act that provide businesses with guidelines to protect personal health information (PHI) of patients. National Institute of Standards in Technology has developed comprehensive data protection and privacy framework that is applicable in a vast variety of organizations (Vogt, 2017). Organizations such as retail stores must be compliant to the NIST standards of data privacy and information security assurance frameworks imposed by concerned departments of the government.

References

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