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### Wilson, J Reflection of Learning Paper

Through the assignments and readings, we have completed over the last several weeks, there have been several elements of the impacts of technology that I have learned and items that had surprised me that I have not thought of. Our assignments and readings based around identity theft was very informative and I learned a lot about how hackers can steal personal information and the best ways to avoid it. Our group assignment was a great way to organize these thoughts. Hackers use information on social media sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn and any sites that could contain your personal information. The way they use our information we put online is scary and concerning. It was important to learn about ways to protect our information through VPN and privacy settings on certain websites. After learning the different ways we can protect our privacy, I added text message approvals to log into all my personal accounts across multiple websites to ensure I am the only one who can log into my accounts.

The issue of identity theft is among the issues with privacy in today's world. With ever evolving technology, everything we do online can be shared as data to present us with ads or recommendations to items we may like. "Our use of these new technologies doesn't signal that we're less interested in privacy. The idea of the government monitoring our whereabouts, our habits, our acquaintances, and our interests still creeps us out. We often just don't know it's going on until it's too late. – Judge Alex

Kozinski” (Baase & Henry 81). I have always been aware of the issues with data collection, but from the readings and interacting in discussion boards where I was able to read other’s experiences, I was given a larger perspective about how it has affected other people and the extent to which it is happening. It was enlightening to read that governments are trying to adopt stricter privacy policies, but due to the internet and technology being so widely used and constantly evolving, it is difficult to regulate and create a safer environment.

Another topic that surprised me to learn about was the blurring of work and personal life due to technology. This is a subject that I can relate to heavily and prior to the readings and discussions on this, I have not put the pieces together until now. With technology advancing rapidly and opening new ways of communicating, the barrier that separated work and personal life has all but disappeared. Smart phones, social media, and e-mail has made it possible for individuals to access their personal life at work and for work to contact their employees at night. In addition to this, individuals can use technology such as VPN and online servers to access work after hours to catch up on tasks during time that used to be dedicated to their personal life. I fall victim to this blur, and I often spend most of my nights with my schoolwork on one monitor and my work on another. I respond to customer emails till 2 a.m. each night, I log in to deal with issues at any point in the day, and my customers often call me no matter what time it is if they need something expedited. On the other end of things, while I’m at work, my family will text me or I will often step away for a break to surf the internet. My work and personal life are intertwined and due to the new technology, it is very difficult to separate them.

From our readings and assignments I have learned new ways to protect myself from hackers and privacy breaches. I have also been put in a new perspective about the line between work and personal life that has helped me think of new ways to try and establish a line so I can keep them separate. I have also taken away interesting information such as the privacy policies other countries are trying to put in place to make the internet a safer environment. Our group assignments and discussions have also helped me gain a perspective on others' opinions on these subjects and how those subjects have affected them. It has really helped me better understand the impact technology is having on others and helped me investigate the impact it has had on myself as well.

Worked Cited:

Baase, Sara, and Timothy Henry. *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology*. Pearson, 2019.