

Amu cmrj 308 essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Utilizing the data of Internet World Stats (2012), and the reports from Howerton, J. (2012), Moore, R. , Lee, T. , & Hunt, R. (2007), Ritz, E. (2012), Johnson, D. (2012), and Watson, S. (2012) this paper examines how current technology is being used by law enforcement and what ethical challenges future technology will bring. Keywords: ethical, social media, Internet, law enforcement, officers Today's world is much different then the one our parents grew up in. In our parents days things were much more simple and straightforward.

They knew the difference between right and wrong and they also had or seemed to have good ethical standards. What has changed since those times? While parents have tried to instill good ethical and moral values in us, they never imagined what their children would face. The challenge of instilling ethics into our children has become more difficult these day and this has happened over a long period of time; there are some moments in time that have sped up this challenge. Most of these came with the invention of the computer and Internet.

Parents, as well as society face even bigger ethical challenges with the ever-evolving advances in technology. This challenge doubles for those whom live and work within a job that has a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Law enforcement is one of these professions, which faces the biggest challenges. Law enforcement officials have a lot of tools at their disposable to conduct investigations and technology has helped to make this process simpler, but with the advances in technology the capability to abuse these investigative tools has also become easier.

Some of the investigative tools that present an ethical challenge to law enforcement officers and their respective departments are the Internet, social media, and many different types of mobile devices. The conception of the Internet created a whole new world for people to explore. With the birth of messages boards, forums, dating sites, classifieds ads (Craigslist), and social media it gave people around the world the ability to communicate with each other.

The Internet also created new opportunities for law enforcement and according to Hunt and Moore (2007), "... law enforcement agencies are currently responding to the problem of online crime by establishing proactive investigative units that track criminals on the Internet" (p. 87). While the Internet is a great tool to use, it can lead to officers using it to commit violations of both ethics and the law. Then there is all the personal information that is floating around on the Internet and assorted Internet sites.

The more people put their information on the internet the easier it is for officers as well as everyday citizens to see it and in turn be able to use it for the wrong reasons. There has been an explosion of social media sites. One of the first big ones was a site called MySpace in which people posted their pictures and what kind of music and movies they liked. The success of MySpace lead to other social media sites, but only one has remained on top since it started. Facebook has gone from a little idea to a huge social media site with over 835, 525, 280 users worldwide (Internet World Stats, 2012).

On Facebook, users are putting all kinds of personal information from where they live or have lived to what they have eaten for lunch during the day. Some of these users have private profiles, which can only be seen by their friends while others have profiles, which can be viewed by the public. Officers can use these sites in order to solve crime and have done so in the past. Erica Ritz a reporter for The Blaze (2012) shows, “ A Kentucky teen spent two days in jail after joking about a drunken hit-and-run on her Facebook page”.

This is a perfect example of how officers can use social media websites to solve crimes. The ethical challenge to officers is to make sure when they are looking at these social media sites they do not read too much into what someone might post on their page. The last thing any officer wants is to make an arrest when one is not warranted. Yet, this still does happen as Howerton (2012) explains, “ Brandon Raub was scooped up in Richmond, Va. by federal and local law enforcement officials on Aug. 6 for making anti-government Facebook posts referring to “ revolution” and statements that questioned the official story behind the 9/11 terrorist attacks”. Officers here violated a person’s rights simply because of what they posted on their Facebook page. Officers must tread very carefully here as more and more people put things onto their social media sites. If a crime has occurred then an officer should look into what was posted on the social media site, but only as long as doing so does not infringe on any ethics violation.

There are many new mobile devices, which officers use to help with investigating crimes. Some of these devices are smart phones, tablets, and in car computers which can access all kinds of information. These devices

offer officers great access to personal information on people they are investigating yet; they also present the capability to be abused. Take the personal computers that are now standard in police cars. This equipment can access information from criminal as well as state websites, which have not only a persons address but, also how many times they have been arrested or ticked.

Former Forsyth County Sheriff Deputy Johnson (2012) states, “ I have seen officers use the in car computer to look up woman’s address and phone numbers they were interested in” (Johnson, D. , personal communication). This of course is a huge violation of the ethical code as well as a crime and is not something, which happens just at the local level. At the federal level the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) has come under scrutiny for tracking people using their smart phones. Watson (2012) explains, “ During the second week of March 2012, a Dell Vostro notebook, used by Supervisor Special Agent Christopher K.

Stangl from FBI Regional Cyber Action Team and New York FBI Office Evidence Response Team was breach using the Atomic Reference Array vulnerability on Java, during the shell session some files were download ... [and] turned [out] to be a list of 12, 367. 232 Apple IOS devices including Unique Device Identifiers (UDID), user names, name if devices, type of devices, Apple Push Notification Service tokens, zip codes, cellphone numbers, address, etc. ”. As technology continues to improve their capabilities and is more intergraded into our daily lives the harder law enforcement officers and the departments they work for will have to adjust.

This applies to both the tools they use for investigating crimes and also in ensuring that their line officers and supervisors respond in an ethical manner. Without continuous upgrade training on what is expected out of an officer there will be a greater chance for ethical violations using any new technology, which comes out. Technological advances and its impending implications are of course unknown, but whatever happens in the future if officer knows the difference between what can and cannot be done ethically, it will help to ensure the trust of the community they serve.