An Empirical Investigation of the Role of Culture on Employees’ Information Systems Security Policy Compliance: Developing Economy Context

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Abstract

Nowadays, it becomes clear that information systems security is one of the most basic but critical issues that organizations need to focus on. Despite huge investments made by companies to keep their systems safe, there are many information Systems (IS) breaches that infiltrate companies’ systems, and consequently, affect their reputation, affect customers’ confidence, and bring huge financial losses. Companies in the developing economy are not immune to this problem as there are many signs of security breaches. The literature suggests that many of the investments in security related issues are for technological solutions. However, this type of solutions does not work well, and according to some researchers, there is one significant element that has been given very little attention, the human factor. Most of the security breaches are caused by employees who are the legitimate user of the company’s systems. According to the general deterrence theory (GDT), security countermeasures (e.g. formal and informal sanctions, shame) could serve as a good mechanism to protect our systems from security breaches. In this regards, many researchers call for the use of deterrence mechanisms to decrease the employees’ non-compliance problem. Despite these calls, a lot of researches report the ineffectiveness of deterrent countermeasures alone for protecting IS from security breaches. Interestingly, in the last decade some researchers have studied how culture can influence people’s attitude towards information systems security policy (ISSP) compliance. However, most of the current IS researches assume that this deterrent effect is uniform across countries and cultures. This situation identifies a gap that needs to be bridged and my work will try to address the question “what is the moderating impact of culture on the influence of ISS countermeasures and other important variables on employees’ intention to violate ISSP?” To address this question, we use a survey method to collect data. We use SPSS AMOS to conduct SEM analysis and other descriptive statistics as required. Finally, we expect to get results that can clearly show the moderating influence, if any, of culture in employees’ intention towards ISSP compliance.

Tasks Accomplished

✓ The statement of the problem, objective, scope, significance, methodology, and hypotheses are well articulated
✓ A comprehensive review of literature in the area culture and ISS is conducted

Expected feedback

✓ To get important and timely comments on the research topic
✓ To get insight into how the current research could be improved and extended
✓ To know more about the current interest in the IS community regarding ISS and its management