

# Ethical, Social and Legal Concern in Computer Usage Notes[Chapter # 8]

Posted in 9 Computer Science

**CHAPTER 8**  
**ETHICAL, SOCIAL,  
AND LEGAL  
CONCERNS  
IN COMPUTER USAGE**

SOCIAL IMPACT  
PRIVACY  
CYBER LAWS  
RESPONSIBLE USE  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
CYBER CRIME

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These lecture notes are prepared by **Salman Ahmad**, who is both a **teacher** and a **web developer**. The purpose of this material is to make the topic clear and useful for students of Class 10 Computer Science.

## Table of Contents

Secure Computer Usage

Responsible Computer Usage

Why Choosing the Right Hardware and Software is Important

Use of Secure Digital Platforms

Best Practices in Online Behavior

Intellectual Property Rights

Ethical and Legal Responsibilities Regarding Intellectual Property Rights

Software Piracy

Social Networking Safety and Online Interactions

Cyberbullying and Online Harassment

MCQs

MCQs for testing

FAQs

## Secure Computer Usage

Computers are used daily for school, communication, and entertainment. Using computers safely means:

- Protecting your personal information
- Making smart choices about software and devices
- Behaving politely and honestly online

**When we use computers carefully, we avoid risks like viruses, hacking, and scams.**

**Example:** Installing antivirus software helps protect your computer from harmful viruses.

## Responsible Computer Usage

Responsible computer usage means using technology carefully and making good decisions.

This includes:

- Choosing good hardware and software
- Keeping data safe
- Respecting others online
- Choosing the Right Hardware and Software

## Why Choosing the Right Hardware and Software is Important

### 1. Safety

Old or unsafe software can make your computer vulnerable to viruses, malware, and hackers. Regular updates and security tools help protect your data.

**Example:** A computer without antivirus software can easily get infected.

### 2. Efficiency

Good hardware and software make your computer run faster and more smoothly, improving performance and reducing delays.

**Example:** New games may run slowly on an old computer.

### 3. Compatibility

Hardware and software must work together properly for smooth operation. If they don't match, programs may not run correctly.

**Example:** Always check system requirements before installing a game.

## Use of Secure Digital Platforms

Using digital platforms safely helps protect your personal information and prevents cyber threats.

### Strong Passwords

Create strong passwords using a mix of letters, numbers, and special symbols to make them harder to guess.

**Example:** Instead of *password123*, use *B3tterP@ssword!* or *123check@123*

### Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

2FA adds an extra layer of security by sending a verification code to your phone after entering your password.

**Example:** Even if someone knows your password, they cannot log in without the code sent to your phone.

### Avoid Public Wi-Fi for Important Work

Public Wi-Fi networks are often unsecured and can be easily accessed by hackers.

**Example:** Avoid doing online banking on café or airport Wi-Fi.

### Be Careful of Scams

Scammers may try to trick you into sharing personal information through fake emails or messages.

**Example:** A fake email pretending to be from a bank asking for your password.

### Check Account Activity

Regularly monitor your accounts to detect any unusual or suspicious activity.

**Example:** If you notice a login from an unknown country, change your password immediately.

## Back Up Important Data

Always keep copies of important files to avoid data loss.

**Example:** Save school work on Google Drive or an external hard drive.

## Best Practices in Online Behavior

We use social media, email, cloud storage, and apps every day for communication, learning, and sharing information. It is important to use them safely, responsibly, and wisely to protect our privacy and personal data.

### Social Media

Think carefully before posting anything online because once something is shared, it can be difficult to remove completely.

**Example:** Do not share your home address publicly on Facebook or Instagram.

### Email Safety

Be careful with emails from unknown people, as they may contain scams, viruses, or fake links.

**Example:** Do not open strange links or attachments from unknown senders.

### Cloud Services

Cloud services store files online and allow access from anywhere using the internet.

**Example:** Google Drive and Dropbox help save files safely.

Always use strong passwords and avoid storing sensitive information carelessly.

### Online Applications

Only install apps from safe and official platforms to keep your device secure and prevent malicious software. Before downloading, review ratings and permissions to ensure the app is trustworthy.

**Example:** Use Google Play Store or Apple App Store for downloading apps.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights protect people's ideas, inventions, and creative work from being copied or used without permission. These rights encourage creativity and innovation by giving creators control over their work.

### Copyright

Copyright protects original creative work such as books, music, movies, artwork, and software. It ensures that the creator has the right to control how their work is used, copied, or shared.

**Example:** An author controls who can copy, print, or sell their book.

## Trademark

A trademark protects company names, logos, slogans, or symbols that identify a brand. It helps customers recognize products and prevents others from using similar marks.

**Example:** The Nike “swoosh” logo is a trademark that represents the brand.

## Patent

A patent protects new inventions or unique designs for a limited time. It gives the inventor exclusive rights to make, use, or sell the invention.

**Example:** If someone invents a new smartphone design, others cannot copy or sell it without permission.

# Ethical and Legal Responsibilities Regarding Intellectual Property Rights

Using someone else’s work without permission is unethical and illegal. People should respect the rights of creators and use digital content responsibly.

**Example:** Copying a book, song, or software and using it or sharing it without the creator’s permission is illegal.

## Software Piracy

Software piracy means illegally copying, downloading, or sharing software without buying a proper license. It is a serious issue that affects software companies and developers.

**Example:** Sharing paid software with friends without purchasing a license is piracy.

Piracy harms software companies because they lose money needed to improve their products, provide updates, and develop new features.

## Social Networking Safety and Online Interactions

Social media helps people communicate, share ideas, and stay connected with others around the world. However, it is important to use social networking platforms safely and respectfully.

## Privacy Settings

Keep your account private so only trusted people can view your posts and personal information.

**Example:** On Instagram, set your account to “Private.”

## Good Online Etiquette

Be polite, respectful, and responsible when interacting with others online.

**Example:** If you disagree with someone, reply politely instead of insulting them.

## Cyberbullying and Online Harassment

Cyberbullying means using the internet, social media, or messages to hurt, threaten, or embarrass someone. It can negatively affect a person’s mental health and confidence.

**Example:** Sending mean messages or posting embarrassing photos without permission.

## Report and Block

If someone bullies or harasses you online, report their behavior and block them to stay safe.

**Example:** Facebook allows users to block people from contacting them.

## Support Others

Help and support people who are being bullied online instead of ignoring the situation.

**Example:** Report the bullying or send supportive messages to the victim.

## Practice Respectful Interactions

Treat people kindly and respectfully online just like in real life. Think before posting or commenting.

**Example:** If you dislike a post, ignore it instead of writing hurtful comments.

## Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) on Ethical, Social and Legal Concern in Computer Usage

1. What is the main purpose of secure computer usage?

- a. To make computer faster
- b. To protect personal data and prevent cyber threats
- c. To install games
- d. To increase brightness