

E-Content of INTERNET TECHNOLOGY AND WEB DESIGN

Chapter: 11.5 Information privacy

Topic: 11.5.1 Information privacy

Information Privacy

- Privacy means the concepts in which the user data files such as stored files, e-mails, etc. are not seen by any other persons without the user's permission.
- It is a private communication accomplished when the sender and intended receiver can read the message.

E-mail Privacy

- When you send an e-mail, the message is broken into several packets and each packet is sent through the Internet.
- Number of packets are dependent of the message. Each packet which is sent over the Internet has Internet address of the sender and recipient's address.
- Packets of the single message may take different systems. This means the content of the message and the address of the sender and receiver are examined by all the systems through which each packet is routed. So, in the absence of code and protection, e-mail could be very public.
- Most of the system administrators adopt a code under which they will not examine someone's e-mail.

Electronic Communication Privacy Act

- Electronic Communication Privacy Act passed on 1986 for the privacy of e-mail. It prohibits anyone to access to access e-mail messages without sender's permission.
- It also prohibits individual's private accessed by government officer without legal permission.
- This act allows system administrator to examine e-mail message only when it is necessary for any operation or the security of the system.

Encryption

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- When you send a message to someone, the message is transmitted in the same form you have typed it, whether it is illegal for someone to read it not.
- One way to avoid this, use encryption (in which message is sent to the receiver in some secret code) the message can't be read unless the code and the method of encryption is known to reader.
- This code is called key. The reader must know the key to decode the message for reading.