

Project SL. No. (5): Based on the Framework for Project at SL. No. (4), study loss of integrity in information system and in information therefrom due to errors in operating *CIS*.

Framework:

Chamber's dictionary gives the meaning of integrity as "entireness, wholeness, unimpaired stage of anything, purity". Errors as above at various stages of an information system certainly result in loss of integrity at each of these stages as also in the loss of overall system integrity.

Specifically, errors at data origin stage, resulting into use of wrong procedures or codes, incorrect filling of forms, incorrect or fraudulent operations, data not processed on time, machine breakdown, etc., give rise to inaccurate, incomplete, backdated and insecure data, further threatened by loss of privacy in view of fraudulent operations.

Similarly, errors (during communication channel stage prior to processing) caused by communication channel noise, physical structure of telecommunication and failures in logical aspects of data communication, circuit tapping and theft of service, acts of sabotage, incidents of accidental destruction and the unpredictability of the complex networks used, give rise to inaccuracy, incompleteness, loss of confidentiality and loss of privacy in data.

Further, during processing stage, errors in machine operation, errors in respect of data files, application and systems software and errors in processing itself, give rise to inaccurate, incomplete, insecure data further threatened by loss of privacy.

As pointed above, communication channel at post-processing stage also contributes to the loss accuracy, completeness, confidentiality and privacy - this time of processed data i.e., information.

Finally, errors at output stage also result in inaccurate and incomplete information. Before proceeding with the study of Information Integrity attributes, it may be mentioned that the literature deals with terms "Information Integrity" as also "Information Quality". Though integrity and quality account for implications of errors in information systems, in engineering production systems, the term "Quality" has a strong connotation of product uniformity, which is considered as the hallmark of the engineering production line. Against this data or information is not expected to be uniform in that each data or information is so because it is unique i.e., non-uniform. It is to accommodate such philosophical view points as also to emphasize holism of data/information accessed and processed and to some extent maintain identity of studies in errors in information systems from that of general engineering production systems, that the term Information Integrity may be considered more appropriate for study at hand in this paper.