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What is an Information System?

      Information systems are interconnected components, software, hardware, and telecommunication networks, that work together to acquire, process, store, and disseminate information (Jaiswal, 2022). Information systems are predominantly used in health to contribute high quality and efficiency to patient care and in business to support their decision-making, improve their marketing strategies, reach potential consumers, and stay ahead of their competitors. Health information systems provide easy access to patient data, particularly their acquired diseases, medicines, side effects and treatments, which can be shared in multiple databases to improve the safety of the patients. Health information systems can arrange patient data, analyze it and identify trends in populations; patients often need treatments from different healthcare providers and health information systems enable healthcare institutions to access common health records (Brook, 2022). To illustrate, doctors can check their health information system database to see if the prescribed medicine is safe and does not have any recorded incidents of serious side effects that have resulted in even more serious health complications. More data shared across health institutions leads to better evidence-based decision-making and better health of the patients.

      On the other hand, business information systems have sophisticated and detailed databases which are used for storing and analyzing information linked to business functions, customers, transactions, and activities of customers and employees. It can also compare internal insights to information about the economy in general or competitors' financial reports, and come up with value-added systems for business functions (Blank, 2020). Business information systems can help firms improve the efficiency and productivity of their operations, aid management in making decisions, and facilitate collaboration among employees which can strengthen their competitive standing in the ever-evolving business environment (Hemmatfer, Salehi & Bayat, 2010). Examples of big business companies that rely heavily on information systems are eBay, an online auction platform; Amazon, an ever-growing virtual shopping mall and provider of cloud computing services; Alibaba, a business-to-business virtual market; and Google, an internet search engine which earns most of its income through keyword advertising in web searches (Zwass, 2022).

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