**How ethical are Major Internet Companies?**

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**Introduction**

The aim of this report is to provide brief information about the code of ethics of different internet companies. The report has provided detailed information about 4 companies which include Amazon, IBM, PayPal, and Oracle. The report has conducted a survey in which 10 respondents were selected. The respondents have given their points of view regarding the ethical practices of the corporation. Some people have considered IBM and Oracle more ethical than Amazon and PayPal whereas some participant has considered Amazon better than other corporations.

**What do People Think?**

A survey has been conducted to know how ethical people think Amazon, PayPal, IBM, and Oracle companies are. In the survey, the people rated the companies from 1 to 10. 1 means totally unethical whereas 10 stands for completely Ethical Corporation. In the survey, 10 people participated and each participant had his/her own opinion regarding the ethical behavior of the organization. Some people have considered IBM and Oracle more ethical than Amazon and PayPal whereas some participant has considered Amazon better than other corporations. The following table shows the results of the survey in detail:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Participants** | **Amazon** | **PayPal** | **IBM** | **Oracle** |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 10 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| **Average** | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 |

The results of the survey show that many respondents believe IBM Corporation is more ethical than other corporations. Amazon and Oracle have shown lower ethical ratings. Various issues that customers of these corporations have to face over the years have impacted the ethical rating of the organizations.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Details** | **Amazon** | **PayPal** | **IBM** | **Oracle** |
| Own Ethical Rating | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 |

These ethical ratings have been provided by keeping the services and ethical code of conduct of the organizations in mind.

**Ethical/Code of Conduct Policies**

**Amazon**

Amazon has established a code of business conduct and ethics that all the employees of the organization have to follow. The employees of the corporation according to the policies have to act lawfully, ethically, and in the best interest of the organization. According to the code of conduct employees and the management of the organization have to comply with the laws, rules, and regulations all the time. According to the company's conduct of conducted and ethics, the employees are said to avoid conflict of interest. Amazon Corporation has strict rules and regulations regarding discrimination and the organization will not tolerate any kind of illegal discrimination. Amazon Corporation provides a safe and healthy working environment to its employees.

**PayPal**

PayPal has established a code of business conduct and ethics. PayPal Corporation protects its company by having rules and regulations regarding company assets and information sharing. Employees of the organization are not allowed to share personal information about the organization. Employee & customer information is also kept confidential by the corporation. PayPal pays special attention to cyber security and makes sure that the data of the employees and its clients won't get into the wrong hands. PayPal Corporation provides equal employment opportunities and focuses on workplace safety.

**IBM**

IBM's code of business conduct and ethics pays special attention to its employees and workplace health & safety. IBM corporations according to its conduct of ethics provide equal employment opportunities and pay equality. In IBM organization discrimination against employees is not tolerable. In IBM corporal punishment and threat to employees is strictly prohibited. Employees in the organization are treated with dignity and respect. IBM believes in such a working environment where employees can work without any stress. A toxic working environment and unhealthy conflicts are not promoted in the corporation.

**Oracle**

Oracle's code of business conduct and ethics pays special attention to quality, fairness, customer satisfaction, and business ethics. Oracle's code of conduct promotes teamwork between the employees and allows employees to work in the best interest of the corporation. Customer satisfaction and innovation should be the utmost priority of the employees who work in the organization.

**Ethical Behavior**

**Amazon**

Amazon has faced various ethical issues over the years. Amazon organization is accused of its poor cyber security measures. In the past data breaches have caused huge inconvenience to Amazon customers. Various warehouses of Amazon does not follow health and safety standards for the employees. Employees have to work for long hours to meet the orders. Amazon Corporation is also accused of anti-competitive or monopolistic behavior in the market. In short various unethical behaviors of the organization have been seen in the past.

**PayPal**

PayPal organization has experienced data breaches which is a major concern for the company's clients and the management of the organization. PayPal has also been accused of shady and deceptive business practices in the past.

**IBM**

IBM Corporation is also accused of unethical business practices. In the past, employees used such business practices to win contracts that can be considered unethical. The working environment of the organization for employees is also sometimes not suitable and workers have to work for longer hours of time.

**Oracle**

Oracle Corporation is accused of bribery in the past and other unethical business practices. The organization is also accused of data privacy concerns.

**Australian Tax**

Organizations such as Amazon, PayPal, IBM, and Oracle have to obey the laws of the country where they operate. It means that these companies will also have to follow the tax laws as well. Amazon, PayPal, IBM, and Oracle are paying tax in Australia. Amazon has paid a 2% tax whereas IBM did not pay tax last year. Oracle and PayPal have also paid tax in the country. Overall it can be said that companies that are operating in the country have to pay tax according to the rules and regulations of the country.

**Summary**

It is concluded that Amazon has established a code of business conduct and ethics that all the employees of the organization have to follow. The employees of the corporation according to the policies have to act lawfully, ethically, and in the best interest of the organization. PayPal has established a code of business conduct and ethics. PayPal Corporation protects its company by having rules and regulations regarding company assets and information sharing. Employees of the organization are not allowed to share personal information about the organization. IBM corporations according to its conduct of ethics provide equal employment opportunities and pay equality. In IBM organization discrimination against employees is not tolerable.

Amazon has faced various ethical issues over the years. Amazon organization is accused of its poor cyber security measures. In the past data breaches have caused huge inconvenience to Amazon customers. Various warehouses of Amazon do not follow health and safety standards for the employees. PayPal organization has experienced data breaches which is a major concern for the company's clients and the management of the organization. PayPal has also been accused of shady and deceptive business practices in the past. IBM Corporation is also accused of unethical business practices. In the past, employees used such business practices to win contracts that can be considered unethical. The working environment of the organization for employees is also sometimes not suitable and workers have to work for longer hours of time.

**Links**

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/403816/amazon-australia-pays-2-percent-tax-on-1bn-in-revenue>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/18/tech/amazon-osha-citation/index.html>

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1018724/000119312506151176/dex141.htm>

<https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/cf-noaction/14a-8/2022/heagypaypal012022-14a8-incoming.pdf>

<https://www.ibm.com/investor/att/pdf/BCG2014.pdf>

<https://www.oracle.com/assets/cebc-176732.pdf>