**CHAPTER 15**

**ISLAM AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

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**Introduction**

Islam is a monotheistic religion founded in the 7th century CE by Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h). It emphasizes submission to Allah and adherence to the teachings of the Qur’an and Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h). Information Technology (IT) refers to the use of computer systems, software, and networks for processing and distributing data. It encompasses a wide range of technologies that facilitate the storage, retrieval, and transmission of information in various forms. Islam and information technology have a complex relationship, with Muslims striving to balance the benefits of technological advancements with the preservation of Islamic values and principles. The Qur’an encourages the pursuit of knowledge and the use of reason, as stated in the verse: *"Say, 'Are those who know equal to those who do not know?' Only those who possess intellect take heed"* (Qur’an, 39:9).

This verse emphasizes the importance of seeking knowledge and using one's intellect. In the context of information technology, Muslims are encouraged to harness its potential for positive purposes, such as spreading knowledge, facilitating communication, and promoting social good. However, they must also be mindful of the potential negative consequences, such as the spread of misinformation, the erosion of privacy, and the promotion of unethical behaviours. Muslim scholars and leaders have emphasized the need for a balanced approach to information technology that embraces its benefits while mitigating risks.

**The Concept of Iqra: Connecting to Computer, Information, and the Importance of Spreading Knowledge**

The concept of Iqra, which means "read" in Arabic, is the first word revealed to Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) in the Qur’an. This command emphasizes the importance of seeking knowledge and spreading it to others. In the modern era, computers and information technology have become essential tools for acquiring and disseminating knowledge. The Qur’an states: "*Read! In the name of your Lord, Who created*" (Qur’an, 96:1). This verse highlights the significance of reading and learning, which can be facilitated through the use of computers and other technological tools.[[1]](#footnote-1) By utilizing these resources, Muslims can gain access to a vast array of information, enabling them to deepen their understanding of Islam and other subjects.

**The Role of Khalifah in Spreading Islamic Tawheed, Principles, and Education through Technology and IT**

As Khalifah or vicegerents of Allah on Earth, Muslims have a responsibility to spread the message of *Tawheed* (oneness of Allah), Islamic principles, and education to all of humanity. The Qur’an states: *"And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: 'Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth”* (Qur’an, 2:30). This verse emphasizes the role of human beings as Khalifah, entrusted with the task of establishing Allah's rule on Earth. In the modern era, technology and information technology (IT) have become powerful tools for fulfilling this responsibility. By harnessing the capabilities of digital platforms, social media, and online educational resources, Muslims can effectively spread Islamic knowledge and values to a global audience.

**Islamic Golden Age: The Foundation of Information Technology in Muslim Scholars' Contributions**

During the Islamic Golden Age, Muslim scholars made significant contributions to various fields that laid the foundation for modern information technology. Islamic science, mathematics, physics, astrology, and cryptology were among the areas in which Muslim scholars excelled, paving the way for future advancements in IT [[2]](#footnote-2). In mathematics, Muslim scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi and Al-Kindi developed algebraic concepts and introduced the decimal system, which is fundamental to computer science and programming. Islamic physics and optics, studied by scholars like Ibn al-Haytham, contributed to the understanding of light and vision, which are essential in display technologies and computer graphics.

Muslim scholars also made significant strides in astronomy and astrology, developing sophisticated instruments and techniques for observing and measuring celestial bodies. These advancements led to improved navigation and timekeeping, which are crucial in modern GPS and communication systems. Furthermore, Islamic cryptology, as developed by scholars like Al-Kindi, introduced the concept of frequency analysis and laid the groundwork for modern encryption methods, which are essential for secure communication and data protection in the digital age. The contributions of Muslim scholars during the Islamic Golden Age demonstrate the deep-rooted connection between Islamic intellectual heritage and the foundations of modern information technology [[3]](#footnote-3).

**Contemporary Muslim Scholars and Their Contributions to Information Technology**

In recent years, contemporary Muslim scholars have made significant contributions to the field of information technology, demonstrating the ongoing relevance of Islamic intellectual traditions in the modern world. These scholars have leveraged their expertise in both Islamic studies and technology to develop innovative solutions and insights that address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

One notable example is Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, a Pakistani scholar and computer scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of cybersecurity. Dr. Shah's research focuses on developing secure and efficient algorithms for protecting sensitive data and communication networks from cyber threats[[4]](#footnote-4). His work has been widely recognized and has contributed to the development of robust cybersecurity systems that protect individuals, businesses, and governments from digital attacks.

Another prominent contemporary Muslim scholar in the field of IT is Dr. Rana Dajani, a Jordanian molecular biologist and founder of the organization "We Love Reading." Dr. Dajani has utilized technology to promote literacy and education in the Arab world, creating a mobile application that provides access to high-quality reading materials and educational resources [[5]](#footnote-5). Her work has been instrumental in promoting learning and empowerment among children and youth in underprivileged communities.

Other contemporary Muslim scholars have focused on exploring the ethical and social implications of information technology from an Islamic perspective. For example, Dr. Muzammil Hussain, a Malaysian scholar and researcher, has written extensively on the impact of social media on Muslim societies and the need to develop Islamic guidelines for responsible technology use [[6]](#footnote-6). These examples demonstrate the continued relevance and importance of Islamic scholarship in the field of information technology. By bringing together their expertise in Islamic studies and technology, contemporary Muslim scholars are making valuable contributions that address the complex challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

**Islamic Guiding Principles on Information Technology**

As Muslims navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of information technology, it is crucial to establish guiding principles derived from Islamic teachings to ensure the ethical and responsible use of these tools. The following are some key Islamic principles that can be applied to the development and use of information technology:

**Adl (Justice):**

"*Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct, and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression: He instructs you, that you may receive admonition*." (Qur’an, 16:90).This verse emphasizes the importance of fulfilling trust and judging with justice. The principle of *Amanah*, which requires the use of information technology in a trustworthy and ethical manner, is deeply rooted in this Qur’anic teaching.By being transparent about data collection and usage, respecting intellectual property rights, and using technology for purposes that align with Islamic values, Muslims can build trust in the use of information technology and ensure that it is used for the benefit of society as a whole. This approach reflects the Qur’anic command to fulfil trust and judge with justice. The principle of Adl requires that information technology be used in a manner that promotes justice and equality.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Amanah (Trust):**

*"Indeed, We offered the Trust to the heavens and the Earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but he who bears it is the human. Indeed, he was [in the past] unjust and ignorant."* (Qur’an, 33:72). This verse highlights the concept of "trust" (al-amanah), which is the responsibility and accountability that comes with being a trustee or caretaker of something. The Qur’an states that this trust was offered to the heavens, the Earth, and the mountains, but they were unable to bear it due to its great importance and weight.

The principle of Amanah emphasizes the importance of using information technology in a trustworthy and ethical manner. This means being transparent about how personal data is collected, used, and shared and obtaining informed consent from individuals before accessing their information. It also involves respecting intellectual property rights and giving credit to the original creators of digital content. In addition, the principle of Amanah requires that technology be used for purposes that align with Islamic values, such as promoting truth, honesty, and integrity. By upholding this principle, Muslims can build trust in the use of information technology and ensure that it is used for the benefit of society as a whole. [[8]](#footnote-8).

**Ilm (Knowledge):**

"*And say, 'My Lord, increase me in knowledge*.” (Qur’an, 20:114). This verse encourages believers to constantly seek and strive to increase their knowledge. The Qur’anic principle of the pursuit of knowledge does not restrict it to any particular location or region but rather emphasizes the universal importance of learning and self-improvement. Concurrently, the principle of Ilm emphasizes the importance of using information technology to promote learning, research, and the exchange of ideas. This means developing technologies that facilitate access to educational resources, such as online courses or digital libraries.[[9]](#footnote-9)

**Khilafah (Stewardship):**

*And it is He who has made you successors [khalā'if] upon the Earth and has raised some of you above others in degrees [of rank] that He may try you through what He has given you. Indeed, your Lord is swift in penalty; but indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful.* (Qur’an, 6:165)*.* The principle of Khilafah emphasizes the responsibility of Muslims to use information technology in a way that preserves and protects the environment. This means developing technologies that are energy-efficient, recyclable, and biodegradable and minimizing the use of toxic materials in the production process. It also involves using technology to monitor and mitigate the environmental impact of human activities, such as through sensors or data analysis. In addition, the principle of Khilafah encourages the use of technology to promote sustainable practices, such as renewable energy or green transportation. By acting as stewards of Allah's creation, Muslims can ensure that information technology is used in a way that benefits both present and future generations. By adhering to these guiding principles, Muslims can harness the power of information technology for the benefit of society while ensuring that its use aligns with the teachings and values of Islam. [[10]](#footnote-10).

**Present-Day Information Technology vs. Morals**

In the modern era, the rapid advancement of information technology has brought about numerous benefits and opportunities, but it has also raised significant moral and ethical concerns. The following points highlight some of the key issues in the conflict between present-day IT and morals:

**Privacy and Data Protection:**

*"O you who believe! Do not enter houses other than your own until you have asked permission and greeted their occupants. That is best for you, that you may be reminded.*” (Qur’an, 24:27). This verse emphasizes the importance of respecting individual privacy and seeking consent before entering someone else's private space. This principle is highly relevant to the challenges posed by the widespread collection and use of personal data in the digital age.

The widespread collection, storage, and use of personal data by technology companies and governments have raised concerns about individual privacy rights. The ease with which data can be gathered, analyzed, and shared has led to instances of data breaches, unauthorized surveillance, and the misuse of personal information [[11]](#footnote-11). This has sparked debates about the moral obligations of organizations to protect user privacy and the need for stronger data protection regulations. The book "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism" by Shoshana Zuboff explores how technology companies monetize personal data and the implications for privacy and democracy. [[12]](#footnote-12)

**AI, Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination:**

*"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted."* (Qur’an, 49:13)*.* This verse emphasizes the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings, regardless of their race, gender, or other social distinctions. It challenges the moral legitimacy of algorithms that perpetuate discrimination and bias and calls for the development of systems that promote fairness, transparency, and respect for human diversity.

The increasing reliance on algorithms and artificial intelligence in decision-making processes has brought to light issues of bias and discrimination. Algorithms trained on historical data may perpetuate existing societal biases, leading to unfair treatment of certain groups in areas such as hiring, lending, and criminal justice.[[13]](#footnote-13) This raises moral questions about the transparency, accountability, and fairness of algorithmic systems. The book "Weapons of Math Destruction" by Cathy O'Neil examines how algorithms can reinforce discrimination and widen social inequalities.[[14]](#footnote-14)

**AI, Algorithmic Suspicion and Uncertainty:**

*“O you who believe! Avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful.* (Qur’an, 49:12). The Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) also said, "Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the falsest of speech." (Sahih al-Bukhari).

The rise of artificial intelligence has ushered in an era of algorithmic decision-making, where machines increasingly influence critical aspects of our lives. However, this shift has also given birth to a growing sense of algorithmic suspicion and uncertainty. As AI systems become more complex and opaque, concerns about their fairness, accountability, and potential biases have emerged. This scepticism is not unfounded, as numerous cases have highlighted instances of algorithmic discrimination in areas such as hiring, lending, and criminal justice. The challenge lies in balancing the potential benefits of AI with the need for transparency and ethical considerations. As we navigate this new landscape, it becomes crucial to develop frameworks that can address these uncertainties, fostering trust between humans and AI systems. This may involve improving algorithmic explainability, implementing robust auditing processes, and ensuring diverse representation in AI development to mitigate biases and enhance public confidence in these technologies.[[15]](#footnote-15)

**Misinformation and Fake News:**

The proliferation of social media and online platforms has made it easier for misinformation and fake news to spread rapidly. This has led to the manipulation of public opinion, the erosion of trust in institutions, and the amplification of societal divisions [[16]](#footnote-16). The moral challenge lies in balancing the right to free speech with the need to combat the spread of false and harmful information. The book "The Misinformation Age" by Cailin O'Connor and James Owen Weatherall explores the social and psychological factors that contribute to the spread of false beliefs and the challenges of countering them [[17]](#footnote-17). The authors argue that the abundance of information in the digital age has paradoxically made it harder for people to discern truth from falsehood. They propose strategies for building resilience against misinformation, such as improving media literacy, fostering critical thinking skills, and strengthening trust in reliable sources of information.

*"O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful."* (Qur’an, 49:6)*.* This verse emphasizes the importance of verifying information and not hastily acting on it, especially if it comes from a questionable source. It highlights the moral responsibility to be discerning and to avoid spreading misinformation or false narratives that can harm others.

**Addiction and Mental Health:**

*"And do not make your hand [as] chained to your neck or extend it completely and [thereby] become blamed and insolvent."* (Qur’an, 17:29). This verse emphasizes the importance of moderation and balance in one's behaviour and actions, cautioning against both excessive restraint and excessive indulgence. This principle is highly relevant to the challenges posed by technology addiction and its impact on mental health. The verse encourages a balanced approach, where individuals are neither overly attached to or controlled by technology nor completely detached from it. This moral guidance aligns with the call for technology companies to design products that promote healthy behaviours and well-being rather than prioritizing engagement and profits at the expense of user mental health. By incorporating this Qur’anic principle into the design and deployment of digital technologies, companies can help users maintain a healthy relationship with these tools, fostering balance, self-regulation, and overall well-being.

**Cyber Crime**

Cybercrime has become a growing concern worldwide, and Malaysia is no exception. In response to the increasing prevalence of cybercrime, the Malaysian government has enacted the Computer Crimes Act 1997 and the more recent Malaysia Cyber Crime Act. These laws aim to combat various forms of cybercrime and protect individuals and organizations from digital threats.

**Computer Crimes Act 1997**

1. The Computer Crimes Act 1997 was the first legislation in Malaysia specifically addressing cybercrime. It defines several offences related to the misuse of computers and unauthorized access to computer systems. The act covers crimes such as hacking, unauthorized modification of computer content, and the use of computers for fraudulent purposes. It also provides for penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for those convicted of computer crimes. However, with the rapid advancement of technology and the emergence of new forms of cybercrime, the need for updated legislation became apparent.[[18]](#footnote-18)

**Malaysia Cyber Crime Act**

The Malaysia Cyber Crime Act, which came into effect in 2016, is a more comprehensive legislation that addresses a wider range of cybercrime activities. The act defines cybercrime as any illegal activity involving the use of computers, computer networks, or other digital devices. It covers offences such as unauthorized access to computer systems, the distribution of malware, identity theft, online fraud, and cyberstalking. The act also grants law enforcement agencies greater powers to investigate and prosecute cybercrime cases, including the ability to intercept communications and seize electronic evidence. [[19]](#footnote-19)

**Key Provisions of the Malaysia Cyber Crime Act**

The Malaysia Cyber Crime Act includes several key provisions to combat cybercrime effectively. It criminalizes unauthorized access to computer systems, whether for the purpose of obtaining information or causing damage. The act also prohibits the creation, distribution, and use of malware, such as viruses and Trojans, which can harm computer systems and steal sensitive data. Additionally, the act addresses online fraud, including phishing scams and identity theft, making them punishable offences. The act also protects critical national information infrastructure, such as telecommunications networks and financial systems, from cyber attacks. [[20]](#footnote-20)

**Challenges and Criticisms**

While the Malaysia Cyber Crime Act has been welcomed as a necessary step in combating cybercrime, it has also faced some challenges and criticisms. One concern is the potential for the act to be misused to restrict freedom of expression and privacy rights [[21]](#footnote-21). Critics argue that the broad powers granted to law enforcement agencies under the act could be used to monitor and censor online content and communication. There are also concerns about the act's compatibility with international human rights standards and its potential impact on civil liberties. Additionally, the rapid evolution of cybercrime techniques and the transnational nature of many cyber attacks pose ongoing challenges to the effective enforcement of the act.[[22]](#footnote-22)

**The Need for Collaboration and Awareness**

Combating cybercrime requires a collaborative effort among government agencies, the private sector, and individuals. The Malaysia Cyber Crime Act provides a legal framework for addressing cybercrime, but its effectiveness depends on proper implementation and enforcement [[23]](#footnote-23). Law enforcement agencies need to be equipped with the necessary skills and resources to investigate and prosecute cybercrime cases. Collaboration with international partners is also crucial, given the global nature of many cyber threats. Furthermore, raising public awareness about cybercrime and promoting safe online practices is essential for preventing victimization and reducing the impact of cybercrime on society.[[24]](#footnote-24)

**Social networking and Islamic Values**

*"O you who believe! Let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them. Nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. Do not insult one another, and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers."* (Qur’an, 49:11)*.* This verse emphasizes the importance of respecting others, avoiding mockery and insults, and maintaining a sense of dignity and community among believers. It is highly relevant to the ethical use of social networking platforms, where these values should be upheld.

Social networking has become an integral part of modern communication, but it also presents ethical challenges from an Islamic perspective. Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining good character, both in the physical world and the digital realm [[25]](#footnote-25). Muslims are encouraged to use social networking platforms responsibly, ensuring that their interactions are guided by Islamic values such as honesty, respect, and compassion. They should avoid engaging in activities that are considered sinful or harmful, such as spreading false information, engaging in backbiting, or invading others' privacy [[26]](#footnote-26). Additionally, Muslims should be mindful of the time they spend on social networking, ensuring that it does not distract them from their religious obligations and real-life responsibilities. Islamic ethics also stresses the importance of safeguarding one's reputation and the reputation of others, which means refraining from posting or sharing content that could be defamatory or damaging. Moreover, Muslims should use social networking as a means to promote positive values, spread knowledge, and foster a sense of community and unity among believers [[27]](#footnote-27).

**Safeguarding Privacy and Avoiding Pornographic Content: An Islamic Perspective on Social Media Usage**

*"O you who believe! Do not enter houses other than your own until you have asked permission and greeted their occupants. That is best for you, that you may be reminded."*(Qur’an, 24:27)**.** This verse emphasizes the importance of respecting individual privacy and seeking consent before entering someone else's private space. This principle is highly relevant to the use of social media and the need to protect one's privacy and that of others.By adhering to this Qur’anic guidance, Muslims can ensure that their social media usage aligns with the Islamic values of respect, modesty, and the sanctity of personal information. This includes refraining from sharing personal details or images without consent, as well as avoiding the dissemination of pornographic content, which is strictly prohibited in Islam.

**Workplace Security in the Digital Age**

Maintaining a secure workplace environment is crucial in the era of rapid technological advancement. With the increasing reliance on digital systems and networks, organizations must implement robust security measures to protect sensitive information and prevent unauthorized access [[28]](#footnote-28). This includes implementing strong authentication protocols, regularly updating software and hardware, and providing employee training on cybersecurity best practices. Additionally, organizations should establish clear policies and procedures for handling confidential data, including guidelines for storage, transmission, and disposal. By prioritizing workplace security, companies can safeguard their assets, maintain the trust of their stakeholders, and ensure business continuity in the face of evolving cyber threats.

**Combating Email Spamming: Strategies and Solutions**

Email spamming has become a pervasive problem, causing frustration for users and posing significant security risks for organizations. Spammers often use deceptive techniques to bypass filters and deliver unwanted or malicious content, such as phishing attempts or malware [[29]](#footnote-29). To combat email spamming, a multi-layered approach is necessary. This includes implementing advanced spam filters that utilize machine-learning algorithms to identify and block suspicious emails. Organizations should also educate their employees about the risks of spamming and provide guidance on how to identify and report suspicious emails. Additionally, collaboration among email service providers, government agencies, and international organizations is crucial in developing global strategies to combat spamming and hold perpetrators accountable.

**Protecting Intellectual Property in the Digital Landscape**

In the digital age, protecting intellectual property (IP) has become increasingly challenging. The ease of copying, sharing, and distributing digital content has led to widespread infringement of copyrights, trademarks, and patents [[30]](#footnote-30). To safeguard IP, organizations must adopt a proactive approach that combines legal, technological, and educational measures. This includes implementing digital rights management (DRM) systems to control access to and use of protected content. Organizations should also regularly monitor online platforms for instances of infringement and take swift legal action against violators. Additionally, educating employees, partners, and customers about the importance of respecting IP rights and the consequences of infringement is crucial in fostering a culture of integrity and innovation.

**Balancing Physical Surveillance and Privacy Rights**

The widespread use of physical surveillance technologies, such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and biometric systems, has raised concerns about privacy rights and the potential for abuse. While these technologies can enhance security and aid in crime prevention, they also have the potential to infringe upon individual privacy if not properly regulated [[31]](#footnote-31). To strike a balance between security and privacy, organizations must adhere to strict guidelines and ethical principles when implementing and using physical surveillance systems. This includes obtaining informed consent from individuals, limiting the collection and retention of personal data, and ensuring that surveillance activities are proportional to the security risks. Additionally, robust safeguards must be in place to prevent unauthorized access to or misuse of surveillance data, and individuals should have the right to access and correct their personal information.

**Defending Against Cyber Attacks: Best Practices and Strategies**

As organizations increasingly rely on digital systems and networks, the threat of cyber-attacks has become more prevalent and sophisticated. Cybercriminals employ various tactics, such as malware, phishing, and denial-of-service attacks, to exploit vulnerabilities and gain unauthorized access to sensitive data [[32]](#footnote-32). To defend against these threats, organizations must adopt a proactive and multi-layered approach to cybersecurity. This includes implementing robust firewalls, intrusion detection and prevention systems, and encryption technologies to protect networks and data. Regular security audits and vulnerability assessments are also essential in identifying and addressing potential weaknesses before they can be exploited. Additionally, organizations should develop and regularly update incident response plans to ensure rapid and effective mitigation of cyber attacks, minimizing the impact on operations and reputation.

**Ethical Hacking: Strengthening Cybersecurity Through Offensive Techniques**

Ethical hacking, also known as penetration testing or white hat hacking, involves the authorized and controlled attempt to identify and exploit vulnerabilities in an organization's digital systems and networks. By simulating real-world cyber attacks, ethical hackers can help organizations assess the effectiveness of their cybersecurity measures and identify areas for improvement [[33]](#footnote-33). This proactive approach to cybersecurity enables organizations to stay one step ahead of malicious actors and strengthen their defences against evolving threats. Ethical hacking also promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement, as organizations can learn from the findings of penetration tests and adapt their security strategies accordingly. However, it is crucial that ethical hacking activities are conducted within a clear legal and ethical framework, with the full knowledge and consent of the organization, to avoid any potential misuse or damage.

**Digital Ummah: Leveraging Internet Technologies for Islamic Faith and Practice**

**Online Qur’an Learning**

"*Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an, and indeed, We will be its guardian*." (Qur’an, 15:9) .This verse emphasizes Allah's promise to preserve the Qur’an, which is highly relevant to the growth and importance of online Qur’an learning platforms. The Qur’anic principle of the preservation of the sacred text supports the efforts to make the Qur’an more accessible and widely available through digital means. The flexibility, reach, and interactive nature of online Qur’an education platforms align with the Qur’anic directive to maintain and transmit the divine revelation. By leveraging the capabilities of the internet, these platforms can bring qualified instructors and high-quality Qur’anic teachings to Muslims around the world, regardless of their location or physical limitations.

**Virtual Islamic Lectures and Seminars**

"S*ay, 'This is my way; I invite to Allah with insight, I and those who follow me. And exalted is Allah, and I am not of those who associate others with Him*.” (Qur’an, 12:108). This verse emphasizes the importance of inviting people to the path of Allah with wisdom and insight, which is highly relevant to the concept of virtual Islamic lectures and seminars. The Qur’anic principle of spreading knowledge and guidance with clarity and conviction supports the use of online platforms to deliver high-quality Islamic education and teachings to global audiences.

The ability of virtual events to reach diverse participants, share different perspectives, and quickly address current events aligns with the Qur’anic directive to invite people to the path of Allah with insight and clarity. By leveraging the reach and accessibility of the internet, these virtual lectures and seminars can contribute to the dissemination of accurate Islamic knowledge and the strengthening of religious understanding among believers.

The Internet allows scholars and speakers to reach global audiences through virtual lectures and seminars. These events cover a wide range of Islamic topics, from basic principles to advanced theological discussions. Attendees can participate in real-time, asking questions and engaging in discussions regardless of their location. Many platforms offer on-demand access to recorded lectures, allowing flexible learning. Virtual events often feature international speakers who might be difficult to access in person. This diversity of perspectives enhances understanding of different Islamic schools of thought. Online seminars can quickly address current events from an Islamic perspective, providing timely guidance. The ability to reach large audiences makes it easier to disseminate important information during crises or emergencies. Virtual events are often more affordable and accessible than in-person conferences, democratizing Islamic knowledge. [[34]](#footnote-34).

**Digital Dawah (Islamic Outreach)**

"*Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided*." (Qur’an, 16:125). This verse provides guidance on the proper approach to inviting others to the path of Allah, emphasizing the use of wisdom, good counsel, and the most effective methods of dialogue. This Qur’anic principle is highly relevant to the concept of digital dawah, where Muslims can leverage various online platforms and tools to share their faith and engage in meaningful outreach.

The Internet provides powerful tools for Islamic outreach, allowing Muslims to share their faith with a global audience. Social media platforms enable the creation and distribution of engaging content about Islam, reaching both Muslims and non-Muslims. Online forums and chat rooms facilitate interfaith dialogue and answer questions about Islam. Websites dedicated to new Muslims offer resources and support for those exploring or converting to Islam. Digital Dawah can counter misinformation about Islam by providing accurate, easily accessible information. It allows for the quick dissemination of positive news and stories about Muslims, helping to combat stereotypes. Multimedia content like videos and infographics make complex Islamic concepts more understandable to diverse audiences. Digital platforms enable targeted outreach to specific demographics or interest groups. [[35]](#footnote-35).

**Online Charity and Zakat Collection**

"*And establish prayer and give zakah and bow with those who bow [in worship and obedience*.” (Qur’an, 2:43). This verse emphasizes the importance of fulfilling the obligation of zakat (obligatory charity) as an integral part of Islamic worship and devotion. The Qur’anic principle of zakat, along with the encouragement to give in charity, provides a strong foundation for the development and use of online platforms that facilitate charitable giving and the collection of zakat.

The Internet has transformed Islamic charitable giving, making it easier for Muslims to fulfil their obligation of zakat (obligatory charity) and sadaqah (voluntary charity). Online platforms allow instant, secure donations to a wide range of causes and organizations. Donors can easily verify the credibility of charities and track how their contributions are used. Many platforms offer automated zakat calculators to help Muslims determine the correct amount to give. Digital giving enables rapid response to emergencies and disasters, allowing funds to be quickly channelled where they're most needed. Some platforms use blockchain technology to ensure transparency and reduce administrative costs. Online charity systems can facilitate regular, small donations, making continuous giving more accessible. International giving is simplified, allowing Muslims to support causes globally. [[36]](#footnote-36).

**Online Islamic Financial Services**

"*O you who believe! Do not consume interest, doubled and multiplied, but fear Allah that you may be successful*." (Qur’an, 3:130). This verse emphasizes the prohibition of riba (interest) and urges believers to avoid engaging in such transactions. It is a clear directive from the Qur’an that is highly relevant to the development and promotion of Islamic financial services, including those offered through online platforms.

The Internet has facilitated the growth and accessibility of Islamic financial services worldwide. Online banking platforms offer Sharia-compliant accounts, investments, and financing options. Islamic fintech companies provide innovative solutions like halal crowdfunding and peer-to-peer lending. Digital platforms make it easier to research and compare different Islamic financial products. Online tools help users understand complex Islamic financial concepts and products. Some platforms offer robo-advisors for Sharia-compliant investment portfolios. Digital services enable Muslims in non-Muslim countries to access Islamic financial products more easily. Online platforms can provide detailed information on Sharia compliance with various financial instruments. Islamic cryptocurrency and blockchain projects explore new frontiers in halal finance.[[37]](#footnote-37) .

**Islamic E-commerce and Halal Product Verification**

"*But Allah has permitted trade and has forbidden interest*." (Qur’an, 2: 275). This verse from the Qur’an establishes the permissibility of trade and commerce while prohibiting the practice of interest-based transactions. This principle is highly relevant to the growth of Islamic e-commerce and the development of halal product verification systems.

The Internet has created new opportunities for Islamic e-commerce and halal product verification. Online marketplaces specialize in halal and Islamic products, from food to cosmetics to fashion. Digital halal certification systems allow consumers to verify product compliance easily. QR codes on products link to detailed information about ingredients and production methods. Online platforms connect Muslim-owned businesses with global markets. Apps help travellers find halal food and Muslim-friendly services worldwide. Blockchain technology is being explored to enhance traceability in halal supply chains. Social media platforms facilitate the growth of Muslim influencers promoting halal lifestyle products. Online communities share reviews and recommendations for halal products and services.[[38]](#footnote-38)

**Conclusion**

Islamic ethics provides a valuable framework for navigating the ethical challenges posed by Information Technology (IT). Rooted in principles of honesty, accountability, privacy, and social welfare, Islamic ethics calls for technology use that promotes justice, protects individual dignity, and fosters collective well-being. In the IT domain, this means safeguarding personal data, ensuring transparency in digital transactions, and using technology responsibly without harm to society or individuals.The rapid development of IT has brought both opportunities and risks, including issues like data privacy, cybercrime, and the ethical use of artificial intelligence. Islamic ethics encourages users and developers alike to approach these innovations with a sense of moral responsibility, ensuring that technology serves humanity positively and aligns with values of fairness, respect, and empathy.In integrating Islamic ethical principles with IT practices, Muslim professionals and users can contribute to a digital environment that not only advances innovation but also respects the ethical boundaries essential for a just and harmonious society. This alignment of faith and technology underscores the potential for responsible IT practices that uplift communities and enhance trust in a rapidly changing digital world.

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2. Saliba, Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance, MIT Press, 2007. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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