School of Business, Law & Entrepreneurship

INF20028 Professional Capabilities for a Digital World

Semester 2 2023

**Assignment 1 Part 2: Ethical Dilemma Analysis**

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| **Assessment Type** | Recorded Presentation |
| **Unit Learning Outcomes (ULO’s)** | ULOs that relate to this task:   1. 2) Evaluate the role of standards, codes of conduct and legislative/regulatory obligations on the level of professionalism of the ICT industry. 2. 3) Review the roles and responsibilities of ICT professionals in organisations and society from a range of perspectives such as work-life balance, mentoring and life- long learning. |
| **Group or Individual task** | Individual |
| **Weighting (%)** | 30% |
| **Due Date** | 5pm Friday 20th October 2023 |
| **Submission details/form** | MP4 and a Word document of the video transcript OR a Word document with a link to MP4 located in the Cloud and a Word document. |

## Overview of your task

**This assignment requires you to analyse the ethical dilemma/s of algorithms in automated decision making. The context for the automated decision making is autonomous vehicles. Your analysis will be presented as a recorded 5 minute video using PowerPoint slides to guide the discussion.**

***Background***

***[Ethical dilemmas](https://www.yourdictionary.com/articles/examples-ethical-dilemmas)*** are situations in which there is a difficult choice to be made between two or more options, neither of which resolves the situation in a manner that is consistent with accepted ethical guidelines (White 2022). Such dilemmas are complicated challenges that cannot be easily solved. There are often different courses of action that can be followed and no matter what course of action is taken, some ethical principal(s) will invariably be compromised. There is no perfect solution. An ***[algorithm](https://theconversation.com/what-is-an-algorithm-how-computers-know-what-to-do-with-data-146665)*** is defined by Denny (2023) as a series of instructions telling a computer how to transform a set of facts about the world into useful information. The facts are data, and the useful information is knowledge for people, instructions for machines or input for yet another algorithm.

***You will conduct and present your analysis in five (5) steps:***

**Step 1:** Provide the foundation for your analysis by firstly introducing and describing the classical ***[Trolley Problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trolley_problem)*** ethical dilemma. The trolley problem, in moral philosophy, centres upon a question first posed by the contemporary British philosopher ***[Philippa Foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippa_Foot)*** as a qualified defense of the doctrine of ***[double effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle_of_double_effect)*** and as an argument for her thesis that ***negative duties carry significantly more weight in moral decision making than positive duties***.

A drawing of a person standing next to a bridge

Description automatically generated

*Figure1: Trolley Problem. Source: Wikipedia*

**Step 2:** Transpose the trolley with a current-day autonomous vehicle and the two future action options as shown below in Figure 2.

A screenshot of a video game

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*Figure 2: Trolley transposed with autonomous vehicle (Source: MIT’s [The Moral Machine](https://www.moralmachine.net/))*

**Step 3:** Based on Figure 2, where the trolley has been transposed with an autonomous vehicle, use the ***Critical Analysis Framework*** to the explain the dilemma of whether the vehicle should continue forward and crash into the barrier killing the 3 occupants in the vehicle or swerve to the left thereby killing the pedestrians and dog. Your thoroughness of analysis of the scenario will be assessed.

**Step 4:** Create your completed analysis in the format of a recorded video with a deck of PowerPoint slides to guide your discussion.

**Step 5:** Submit your recorded video and a word document transcript.

***Files you will need:***

* **Critical Analysis Framework PDF**. This document is located in the Assignment 1 Folder.

***Suggested approach to completing this assessment:***

1. Develop your research plan for exploring the topic (for example your search strategies to find the relevant literature on ethical dilemmas, algorithms, automated decision-making, the trolley problem, The Moral Machine and appropriate classical ethical theories and/or principles).
2. Action your research plan by delving into the topic’s literature thoroughly and taking notes which will help you in your analysis.
3. Begin to systematically step through the Critical Analysis Framework.
4. Collect appropriate imagery to incorporate into your presentation.
5. Begin preparing your presentation recording by drafting the following required components:
   1. Title slide (including your name and student ID).
   2. Introduction to the presentation.
   3. Sequential description of each step in the Critical Analysis Framework which clearly incorporates your understanding of your thorough understanding of the topic, analysis of the dilemma, and justification in the selection of an appropriate classical ethical theory to support your decision on the chosen future direction of the trolley (post point of no return).
   4. Conclusion to the presentation.
   5. Reference list slide.
6. Create the transcript of the presentation. You will need this to do the recording and must submit the transcript along with your video file.
7. Practice your presentation for smooth progression through the coverage of discussion points and time management. **Your marker will stop any recording longer than 5 minutes at the 5 minute mark.** This is a strict timeline which will be enforced.
8. Record your presentation (Camera on is *not* required. Audio with visual slides is required).
9. Submit 2 x files into the Assignment 2 submission link in Canvas:
10. MP4 video file
11. Transcript of the recording

**Important information on referencing**

**APA 7th must be used as the referencing style.** If unfamiliar with the style, please visit the links to the Swinburne Library Referencing in the Canvas resources or from the Swinburne University Library website.

No set number of references is provided. You should determine the appropriate number. However, be aware that only references mentioned within the presentation may be included in your reference list. This is the defining difference between a reference list and a bibliography. Sources should be based around a mix of academic publications such as books, journal articles, industry magazines, videos, newspaper articles (including online news items), blogs and other relevant items. Your ability to determine the validity and appropriateness of the source is also being assessed within this assignment.

**Other important information on submission requirements**

* + Assessments must be submitted via Canvas. Do not email the assessment to your Convenor.
  + No coversheet is required. The Declaration and Statement of Authorship is now located inside each Assignment Folder in Canvas.
  + Keep a backup of your submission. If your assessment goes astray, whether your fault or ours, you will be required to reproduce it.
  + Your submission is expected to be well edited for typos.

### Marking Criteria

A rubric for this assessment item is available in Canvas in the Assignment 2 Folder and will be used to assess your work. The onus is on the student to comprehend each element within the rubric. If unsure, seek clarity from a member of the teaching team.

### Extensions and Late Submission

Please reread the section on extensions and late submission in the Unit Outline. Extension requests will be strictly enforced.

### Assessment Help

If you have any queries or concerns, you may discuss them with the Convenor and/or tutor in person, in class, inside the Canvas discussion board for this assignment or by email.

Technical assistance can be obtained from the Swinburne Service Desk: [servicedesk@swin.edu.au](mailto:servicedesk@swin.edu.au) or (03)9214 5000.