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<div align="center">The Ethics of Notifications</div>

There is no way to perfectly decide whether or not a notification will be distracting or important to a user, so instead of implementing a policy that is forced on the user, I would simply allow for the user to customize their notifications. Every person has different needs, desires, so I would try and implement a system which allows each person to decide when and what type of notifications should be allowed through to the user at any given time. I would first decide when in my life I do not need to have a notification and then decide if other people are likely to have similar problems by asking around the company, or by taking surveys of users.

A product can have a wide range of attention grabbing, phones especially so because of how much information and software can be accessed on them. Between social media and games, any user can easily be distracted by a single notification, but equally possible is that an important message was just sent by a family member or co-worker. A product becomes distracting when the user gets more of the less important notification and addressees them as if they were emergencies.

As a mobile software developer the challenge would be finding a solution to address the less important notifications but still lets the important ones through. I would likely try and implement several methods for blocking notifications with specific purposes. The most basic of these options would be to add a 'block all notifications' list where notification any given app can be turned off completely. This would allow users if they so choose to block all notifications from any of their games or social media platforms removing that potential distractions from their life until they turn it back on. However, I do not believe that anyone want to only have access to blanket notification blockers because that's not what I want. There are a few people that I need to know that message me so I would

also let there be certain types of things to get through the blockade. This system of blocking most notifications and letting a small few through would allow people to focus on the important things in life while still letting the important information engage the user.

I would not completely remove notifications however, simply provide systems to limit their flow to the user. I believe notifications are good to have but that each person has different needs from them. One person only needs a few where another person my need most of them to go through for their small business or for their own other reason. Each person should choose what notifications they need and be able to block everything else to make sure that when they get a notification, they know that it is important.

I believe that there is no reason to not add all the features I wish were on phones if I was given the opportunity to make them less distracting. 1 Peter 4:8-10 tells Christians to love each other deeply and what that entails. In many ways, me having a flip phone has been a blessing because there are very few things I can do on it. I would not wish a flip phone on anyone who didn't want one, but I still would try and limit the notifications given as if it only had the capabilities of a flip phone.

There is no reason for anyone in the world to suffer in any part of their life because of their phone. If I was in a position to make change in how notifications are received by the user, I would default to what the user thinks is important. There is no reason that a company should get to decide what notifications to block base line so I would simply make a system that allow the user to completely block any notification they deem either to distracting or not important enough to know about right away.