

There are a few ethical issues for me in the development cycle of AI. Two of the main ethical issues for myself are bias and safety. Bias, being a main concern, can occur when AI systems are trained on data that reflects the biases of the people who created the data. Basically, a garbage-in garbage-out scenario. This can lead to AI systems that make decisions that are unfair or discriminatory, or worse simply wrong! For example, an AI system that is used to make hiring decisions might be biased against people of certain races or genders if it is trained on data that reflects the hiring practices of companies that have a history of discrimination.

Safety is another major concern in AI development. AI systems are becoming increasingly complex, and it is difficult to predict how they will behave in all possible situations. This raises the risk that AI systems could make decisions that could harm people or damage property. For example, an AI system that is used to control self-driving cars could make a mistake that could cause a car accident.

In order to address these ethical concerns, it is important to develop AI systems that are transparent, reliable, and accountable. This means that developers must put plenty of thought and planning prior to development, making sure the dev team have a solid understanding of the ethical and all of the Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) process, procedures, and policies prior to the actual development. In addition, every dev team or business should have a regulatory body that acts as a control system to actually do the checks and balances for these guides, because as we know there can be a gap between what was planned and what has been produced.

It will become increasingly more complicated as the AI systems become more advanced, “There are also ethical considerations around creating intelligent machines that can think for themselves. As AI technology develops, there will be more questions about its implications and how best to manage them.” (<https://cbifamily.com>, 2021)

What I think is missing from some teachings are the definitions that teach us exactly where the AI part becomes the question at hand. I say this because many of the studies and articles we have gone through relate to the ethics within the SDLC which does not necessarily have an AI component. I think we sometimes lost the broader picture that any software development requires an ethical approach, this is not the domain of AI. If this is first established then it is easier to explain where AI brings in an additional concern layer into the ethics of the SDLC, what or how an ethical development needs to be modified because of the AI component.

Ethics is a complicated subject, and I think every business or development team needs to have an agreed thought to what ethics means to them, define it, and base a true ethical methodology that will drive the development cycle. It might be different on some items between teams, and that is fine, since there is at the end a feedback of users that can steer the correctness of the development.

References

<https://cbifamily.com>, *What is artificial intelligence?* July, 21, 2021