Fontys University of Applied Sciences

Ethical

Requirements

Report

ReSoTo

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1. Process

In developing ReSoTo, we used a structured approach to identify ethical requirements. We played the TICT Ethics game to stimulate discussions on potential ethical concerns, focusing on data handling, user privacy, and automation. This approach highlighted areas where ethical considerations intersect with usability and transparency, particularly for a platform designed to support research projects. To further extend the list of ethical requirements, we applied the Tarot Cards of Tech as an additional layer to identify unforeseen impacts or biases in automation processes. Each Tarot Card prompted reflective questions, especially around long-term project storage, user data access, and inclusivity in feature design. This combination of tools led to a thorough and diverse set of ethical requirements for ReSoTo.

2. Results

Below are the main ethical requirements identified for ReSoTo, with some proposed solutions:

2.1. Privacy and Data Security

- Requirement: Ensure all user and project data are secure and accessible only to authorized users.
- Solution: Implement role-based access control, encrypt data in transit and at rest, and conduct regular security checks.

2.2. Transparency in Data Handling

- Requirement: Provide clear information on how user data and project files are stored, processed, and managed within the platform
- Solution: Develop a privacy policy that details the data processing system.

2.3. Inclusivity and Accessibility

- Requirement: Make ReSoTo accessible to all researchers.
- Solution: Conduct usability testing with diverse users.

2.4. Data Retention and Deletion

- Requirement: Ensure users have control over data retention policies for their projects and can delete projects when desired.
- Solution: Develop an admin feature that allows "permanent delete" option.

2.5. Environmental Responsibility

- Requirement: Minimize the environmental impact of running ReSoTo's backend services.
- Solution: Use cloud providers with a focus on renewable energy.

3. Conclusion

By incorporating ethical requirements into ReSoTo, the project prioritizes both technical excellence and social responsibility. Using tools like the TICT Ethics game and Tarot Cards of Tech has broadened the scope of ethical considerations, from data privacy and inclusivity to the potential for unintended consequences. These requirements now guide ReSoTo's development, ensuring it remains a trustworthy platform that not only supports research efficiency but also safeguards user autonomy, equity, and transparency.