CSSci

Prototype Ethics Tool

Individual Assignment CME

Version 1.0 (20 Jan 2025)

In this assignment you will prototype a web-based intervention to inform users about an ethical dilemma posed by an emerging technology. To do so, you will:

1. Select an emerging technology that you think poses a serious ethical dilemma.
2. Motivate your designated target audience to care about this ethical dilemma.
3. Identify the ethical framework(s) you will use to guide the development of your tool and explain how that framework informs our thinking on the dilemma at hand.
4. Create a web-based tool which:
    a. Highlights the dilemma, using common ethical framework/s.
    b. Helps users clarify their thinking about the related emerging technology.
5. Test out your peers' prototypes and reflect on their effectiveness.

Appropriate web tools could include, for example, an interactive map or infographic, a game, a quiz or profile-builder, a calculator, or a simulation. This is not an exhaustive list; we encourage you to be creative. We only expect you to design a *prototype* of the intervention (e.g. a website wireframe), not the fully working web tool. It should however be clear from the prototype how its functionality can convey the ethnical dilemma to the user and make them think about the potential effects of the emergent technology.

Please note that your tool should focus on a *dilemma*: a difficult choice between two or more alternatives, or a contentious weighting of the pros and cons of engaging in a course of action. Do not merely demonstrate that one option is ethical and another is unethical. Instead, focus on the nuanced considerations that make the choice difficult or contentious in order to help your user structure their own ethical decision-making.

This assignment will proceed in two phases. In the first phase you will select the emerging technology you wish to focus on and explore the ethical dilemmas it poses in a structured way. You will receive feedback via the CME Progress Check on Friday, March 21.

In the second phase, you will design and test a prototype tool. Two full days - Thursday, April 10th and Friday, Aprill 11th - are reserved for a "CME Sprint" where you can design and test your prototype. As you will be testing your prototype on your peers, your attendance during both days is required. You will receive feedback on your prototype during the sprint.

Deadlines

Wednesday, 19 March, 17:00	**Progress Check** Static file via Canvas
Thursday, 10 April, 09:30 – 17:00 **Friday, 11 April, 09:30 – 17:00**	**CME Sprint Days** In-person attendance required
Thursday, 10 April, 17:00 **Friday, 11 April, 17:00**	**Prototype Testing Notes** In-person submission
Thursday, 17 April, 17:00	**Prototype of Ethical Tool** Static file or zip via Canvas

Deliverables

Progress Check

A single document submitted via Canvas.

- Statement of the emerging technology.
- Statement of the relevant ethical dilemma.
- A draft or outline of your ethical argumentation, applying one (or more) of the following ethical frameworks: utilitarianism, deontology, consequentialism, and/or virtue ethics.
- An annotated bibliography with relevant academic sources.

Tester Notes

Your notes on at least 4 of your peers' prototypes, submitted in-person during the CME Sprint days. For each prototype tested:

- Reflect on the practical functioning of the tool.
- Reflect on the effectiveness of the tool to communicate ethical considerations.
- State the outcome of your use of the tool:
    - What is your position on this dilemma?
    - How / did the tool change your thinking about this topic?

Prototype Web-Based Ethics Tool

A static file or zip, submitted via Canvas. The tool should have, at minimum, the following:

- The informative tool (such as a game or an interactive graphic).
- An annotated list of sources where the user might find useful further information.
- "About" information, including: your name, a brief summary of the ethical dilemma, and a description of why the dilemma is relevant to users.

You may choose, for example, to devote one page of a website to each of these aspects. However, more creative solutions are also possible.

Assessment Criteria

- Clear and convincing explanation of an ethical dilemma related to emerging technology.
- Sound ethical reasoning in the application of one or more of the following ethical frameworks: utilitarianism, deontology, consequentialism, and/or virtue ethics.
- Persuasiveness of tool, given intended target audience.
- Depth and practical relevance of ethical insights.
- Demonstrates thoughtful use of academic sources.
- Contribution to collaborative learning, particularly through participation on both days of the "CME Sprint."
- Ability to reflect on the practical and theoretical effectiveness of digital tools.
- Adherence to academic standards.
    - Well-communicated and edited, with a logical structure.
    - Relevant academic sources are adequately utilised and correctly referenced.

Learning Objectives

- Explain socially responsible AI as a change-making method.
- Reflect on effective collaboration and communication with all kinds of stakeholders.
- Suggest scenarios on how new digital tools may influence individuals and society with probable desirable and undesirable effects.
- Evaluate the ethical aspects of AI/algorithm-based interventions, defending your position.