Should there be a mandatory code of conduct in data science?

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Today's presentation

- Definition of "code of conduct"
- Why is this required in Data Science?
- How should a code of conduct be implemented?
- Key features required
- Challenges to implementation
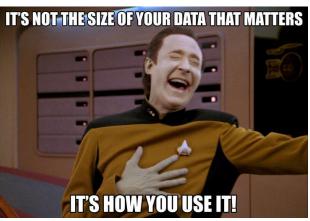
Code of Conduct

"A well written code of conduct clarifies an organization's mission, values and principles, linking them with standards of professional conduct."[1]

- Defines standards of behaviour for the organisation and the individual employee

- Supports the organisation in day-to-day decision making

- Marketing tool

1. *https://www.ethics.org/resources/free-toolkit/code-of-conduct/*

Why is a Code of Conduct needed in Data?

BBC NEWS
Technology

Amazon, Apple and Google face data complaints

21 January 2019

Entertainment streaming giants including Amazon, Apple, Google, Netflix and Spotify have been accused of breaking the EU's data regulations.

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IT'S HOW YOU USE IT!

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This article is more than **2 years old**

Revealed: 50 million Facebook profiles harvested for Cambridge Analytica in major data breach

Whistleblower describes how firm linked to former Trump adviser Steve Bannon compiled user data to target American voters

- 'I made Steve Bannon's psychological warfare tool': meet the data war whistleblower
- Mark Zuckerberg breaks silence on Cambridge Analytica

Implementation

- Royal Statistical Society [2]

  - Chartered Institute for IT

  - Operational Research Society

  - Royal Academy of Engineering

  - IMA (Institute of Mathematics and its Applications)

2.https://rss.org.uk/news-publication/news-publications/2020/general-news/professional-standards-to-be-set-for-data-science/

Key Features Required

- Professional competence framework

- Regulated by governing bodies - Data Ethics Council

- Starts from education level

- Continuous professional development

- Auditing process

Challenges to Implementation

- International issue

- The definitions of "data scientist" are wide ranging

- Most effective way to deal with breaches

- Mandatory or encouraged - influence of public image

Things can still go wrong

Summary

- A code of conduct can only be a good thing for the data science industry
- Support of governments are required
- Collaboration between governing bodies, major technical companies
- A continuous process which must update and change as the industry changes