

In the world of technology, there are bound to be arguments. One such issue is the argument of whether we should prioritize our natural rights, or technological advancement. Artificial intelligence has been at the center of this argument for the past decade. Since AI emerged to help it advance faster, companies have been using illegal or borderline illegal tactics to gain information. This is an ever-growing problem. Should we allow these companies to do as they wish for technology to flourish, or should we keep human rights protected? We should limit Artificial Intelligence research and keep it under tight supervision to protect human rights and even lives.

The company that used AI to their advantage was Facebook. They used AI to gain an advantage over their competitors at the cost of their user's privacy. Facebook paid users to install an app that tracked their activities on their phones and kept tabs on how much they used apps. With this information, they could accurately predict that a multimillion-dollar investment would be profitable. "Onavo allowed Facebook to spot WhatsApp's meteoric rise and justify paying \$19 billion to buy the chat startup in 2014 (Constine) ". WhatsApp has since tripled its user base, demonstrating the power of Onavo's foresight." This development was a significant change. Using deception to gain, as the scriptures say, "Dishonest money dwindle, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow. (Proverbs 13:11)". This isn't the only time Facebook has raised ethical questions. Back in 2012, Facebook deliberately changed its users' newsfeeds to find out how news affected people's moods. "More than 600,000 unwitting users were shown either more upbeat or more depressing news stories to determine if this affected their moods (Martin)". While this type of research isn't necessarily malicious, it does bring to question if this is violating our rights. In none of these examples was consent explicitly given by the people they were experimenting on.

Privacy is a major concern for most people. Ever since our creation, we have known that. “For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it (Ecclesiastes 7:12). Why should that now be violated? These massive amounts of information are stored somewhere. If the public knows that so, so do criminals. AI can be utilized to commit crimes such as identity theft. In fact, these systems are getting so advanced that they can mimic faces and voices to attack people. “As a result, deepfake fraud is increasing at an alarming rate, with one-third of businesses already hit by video and audio deepfake attacks as of April 2023 (Margalit)”.

The protection of people on the internet should be the number one priority of these companies that develop AI. AI itself is not a malicious creation. I believe AI can be the future of humanity but just like all new things, it’s only a matter of time for criminals to find ways to exploit them. The technology is already out there, it’s too late to stop it. In the same way we put limits on AI to not let it get out of control. We need to enforce rules and regulations on the use of AI more strictly and inform people of the dangers behind it.

Works Cited

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