



Collaborative Discussion 1 (Ethics and Morality)

Course: MSc Computer Science

Module: Research Methods and Professional Practice

Assignment: Collaborative Discussion 1 (Ethics and Morality) – Summary Post

Date: Saturday 28th May 2022

Student ID: 126853

Post:

During discussions between myself and my peers over the last few weeks, it has become evident that ethics and codes of conduct are an incredibly important part of maintaining the public perception of the IT industry. As such, large bodies such as the Association of Computing Machinery and the British Computing Society have produced some comprehensive Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics documents, discussing ways that IT professionals should act to uphold the reputation of the industry as a whole.

During the discussion forum element of the past three weeks, I have focused on an ACM case study on Rogue Services, a web-hosting provider that offered a guaranteed uptime commitment. As a result, this commitment got abused by a large number of their customers, which in turn hosted malware on their network. A series of software vendors had collectively attacked the Rogue Services network with the intention of preventing this malicious behaviour from continuing (ACM, 2018). It was my belief that the software vendors were acting in the best interests of society as a whole, although some innocent users may have been caught amongst the damage. Sergio had responded to my post highlighting the fact that the software vendors may have been operating in different geographical regions from the hosting company, which is likely to pose wider data protection concerns (Zavarce, 2022).

Other discussions highlighted the ethical concerns surrounding emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence. Although most developments are fairly recent, there have been many cases of unethical behaviour exerted by such technologies, such as with Amazon's hiring process (Dastin, 2018). As a long term note, this bears the question on whether a company is going to be held responsible for the long term management of AI solutions, despite the different use-cases by their clients and the training data provided to them.

References:

ACM. (2018) Case: Malware Disruption. Available from: <https://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/using-the-code/case-malware-disruption/> [Accessed 12th March 2022].

Dastin, J. (2018) Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-com-jobs-automation-insight-idUSKCN1MK08G> [Accessed 20th March 2022].

Zavarce, S. (2022) Peer Response. Available from: <https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=299794#p1046325> [Accessed 27th March 2022].

Screenshot:



Kieron Holmes

Summary Post

61 days ago

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Zavarce, S. (2022) Peer Response. Available from: <https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?id=299794#p1046326> [Accessed 27th March 2022].