

The four dimensions of ethical impact assessment

Sustainability

- What are stakeholder expectations? Have stakeholders been directly consulted?
- What are the environmental, social and financial implications?
- How can trade-offs between environmental, social and financial aspects be minimized?
- If minimizing trade-offs appears unattainable as single entity, has the organization considered engaging in collective action through multi-stakeholder initiatives?

Legality

- What regulatory rules might apply?
- What guidance is available from relevant regulators?
- What internal governance structures and rules apply?

Technology

- What is the technology architecture?
- What are the data flows?
- How novel is the processing?
- What are the technical requirements and processes?
- What technology risks have been identified?

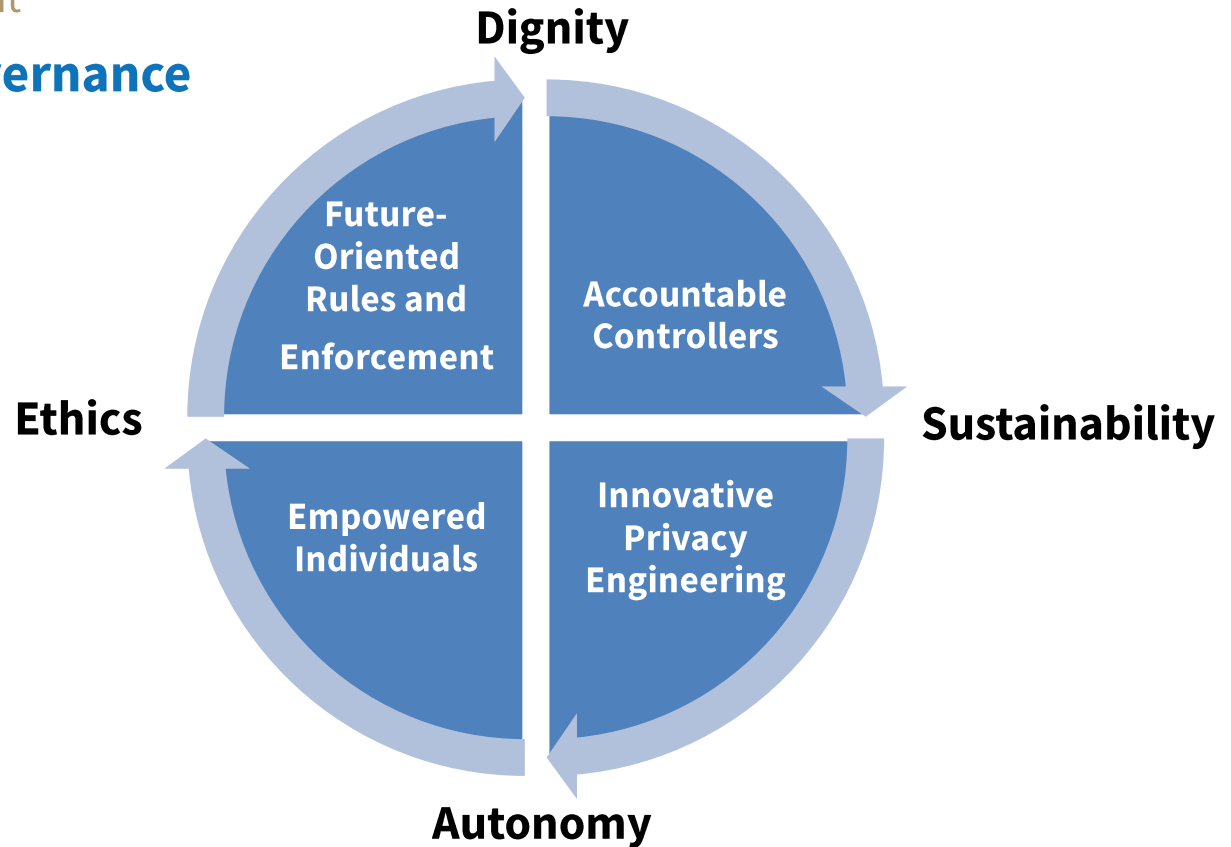
Morality

- Is it supporting or enhancing human dignity?
- Does it preserve the autonomy of the person?
- Is the processing necessary and proportionate?
- Is the organization proactively engaging with affected stakeholders? Do adversely affected individuals or groups have the possibility to voice their concerns?

Thank you for your feedback



Responsible data governance



Source: adapted from European Data Protection Supervisor (2015): Towards a new digital ethics.

Task for short essay: Ethical algorithmic audit

Write an audit report (max. 2000 words excl. references) directed to a specific company or organization. It may be a company discussed in the course or another organization of your choosing. Use the course material (i.e., slides, papers, in-class presentations) to substantiate your answer and pay attention to the formalities (see slide nr. 7)!

Your report should do two things:

1. Identify significant areas of ethical concern regarding the company's use of big data, business analytics, machine learning, or similar techniques. Describe specific ethical problems that either have occurred, or that may occur in the future. Explain why they did, or are likely to, arise.
2. Make 3 concrete recommendations to the company or organization. Explain the rationale and implementation for each recommendation.

Formalities

Short essay (individual work): Ethical algorithmic audit

- Each student is required to write a short essay
- The short essay must meet the following criteria:
 - Length: max. 2000 words excl. references
 - Times New Roman, 12pt., 1,5 spaced, upload only in pdf-format
 - Use the official TBS/TCD assignment cover page
 - Submission Deadline: 5 weeks after the last lecture, i.e. 19. Dec 2022

Additional remarks for short essay

- Each recommendation should include an in-depth exposition of theory in your own words. It is important that you lay a solid theoretical foundation for each recommendation.
- It is not necessary that you make any additional research for the theory part. Use what we have discussed in class (slides, papers, in-class presentations).
- It might be useful to use tables and/or figures to structure your argumentation. This can be particularly useful for the practical application of the theory.
- You will need to make some additional research on the company or organization of your choosing to substantiate your analysis.
- All sources that you use need to be properly referenced. I do not suggest a particular citation style but be consistent throughout the paper.
- Do not simply state your personal opinion. The point of the essay is that you develop your own answer on the question based on your interpretation of theoretical constructs.
- If you choose the same company as for your group presentation, make sure that you go beyond the insights of your case analysis in the group presentation. Do not use the same talking points and make use of at least two other theoretical constructs of this module.
- If you decide to focus your attention on selected issues of either the theory or the case, make sure that you justify your selection.
- Finally, take a look at the evaluation criteria for the essay on slide nr. 11 to get an idea what is important for grading.

Best of luck to all of you!



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
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The End