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<center>Unintended Consequences of Alarm Buddy</center>

I think that the most likely unintended consequence of the Alarm Buddy service is how it could be used for harassment and bullying. Because Alarm Buddy allows users to customize alarms, it could be used to send alarms that contain racist or abusive content. Alongside this, some users could become the target of harassment, and have their account flooded with unwanted alarms. In order to mitigate these risks, we could implement a system that allows users to block other users so that they cannot interact with them via Alarm Buddy, as well as a system that allows users to report inappropriate content. This reporting system would require a great deal of overhead, since we would need to staff a review team in order to ensure that the reporting system itself is not abused or used in a discriminatory manner.

Another possible avenue for unintended bias is in the Alexa voice software. Voice recognition systems like Alexa have been known to bias their understanding of dialects that vary from "White American." As a result, users who have a different dialect have a more difficult time interacting with the software. I am not sure what our team could do to mitigate this given that we have been treating Alexa's voice recognition as a black box, but it is possible that people working at Amazon have already implemented some fixes for these kinds of issues.

Another area of concern is in what data Amazon would be collecting from our users, and how they are using this data. The data collected from our users could be used in ways that lead to biased outcomes. For example, the data could be used in ways similar to what the talk described when it mentioned the age discrimination that Facebook engages in. The most practical solution to this problem would be to somehow prevent the data collection from occurring at all. I don't know if this is possible as long as we are using the Alexa service.