

DATA 605

Ethical & Legal Issues in

Data Science

SPRING 2022

SUNELA THOMAS

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AGENDA

- Questions?
- Developing an Ethical Architecture for Information Management
- Breakout Discussion
- What are Data Practitioners' Obligations to the Public?

Information Ethics & Architecture Connection

Complexity and change

Lack formal description of what the ethics of the organization are and how they cascade through the different representations and perspectives

Zachman Framework

	What (Data)	How (Action)	Where (Location)	Who (Actor)	When (Event)	Why (Motivation)	
Executive	Inventory Identification	Process Identification	Distribution Identification	Responsibility Identification	Timing Identification	Motivation Identification	Scope Context
Business Manager	Inventory Definition	Process Definition	Distribution Definition	Responsibility Definition	Timing Definition	Motivation Definition	Business Concepts
Architect	Inventory Representation	Process Representation	Distribution Representation	Responsibility Representation	Timing Representation	Motivation Representation	System Logic
Engineer	Inventory Specification	Process Specification	Distribution Specification	Responsibility Specification	Timing Specification	Motivation Specification	Technology Physics
Technician	Inventory Configuration	Process Configuration	Distribution Configuration	Responsibility Configuration	Timing Configuration	Motivation Configuration	Tool Components
Enterprise	Inventory Instantiation	Process Instantiation	Distribution Instantiation	Responsibility Instantiation	Timing Instantiation	Motivation Instantiation	Enterprise
	Inventory Sets	Process Flows	Distribution Networks	Responsibility Assignments	Timing Cycles	Motivation Intentions	

Discussion

In the same way as organizations face 'technical debt' today, is it possible that we are also facing 'ethical debt' in the fallout from decisions taken about the adoption of new technologies without appropriate consideration of ethical issues? If so, who pays that ethical debt?

<https://www.wired.com/story/opinion-ethical-tech-starts-with-addressing-ethical-debt/>

What are data practitioners' obligations to the public?

Why do data practitioners have obligations to the public?

What is a data professional?

How does being a professional create special ethical obligations for the data practitioner?

Now, who is the public?

The unethical research case discussion - <https://www.vox.com/2016/5/12/11666116/70000-okcupid-users-data-release>

okcupid case questions

1. What specific, significant harms to members of the public did the researchers' action risk? List as many types of harm as you can think of.
2. How should those potential harms have been evaluated alongside the prospective benefits of the research claimed by the study's authors? Could the benefits hoped for by the authors have been significant enough to justify the risks of harm you identified above?
3. List the various stakeholders involved in the OkCupid case and for each type of stakeholder that you listed, identify what was at stake for them.
4. Would the members of the public whose data were exposed by the researchers be justified in feeling abused, violated, or otherwise unethically treated by the study's authors, even though they never had a personal interaction with the authors?
5. A Danish programmer specifically designed the data scraping software for the study, though he was not a co-author of the study himself. What ethical obligations did he have in the case? Should he have agreed to design a tool for this study?
6. How do you think the OkCupid study likely impacted the reputations and professional prospects of the researchers, and of the designed of the scraping software?