**e-Portfolio Activity: Reflective Activity 1 – Ethics in Computing in the age of Generative AI**

**Read Correa et al. (2023) and Deckard (2023).**

**From late 2022, generative AI has taken the world by storm, and there is no field of activity that has not been impacted in some way. This is so much truer for Computer Science, which is where it all began. It is important to realise, however, that AI itself is nothing new, per se; and if the renaissance of the field after the ‘winter’ of the 1980s has been slow but constant, today there is the need of a different set of rules.**

**In the Correa et al (2023) paper, the authors state that “a lot of work is taking place to define the values and ideas that should guide AI advances. A key challenge, however, lies in establishing a consensus on these values, given the diverse perspectives of various stakeholders worldwide and the abstraction of normative discourse. Researchers and policy makers need better tools to catalogue and compare AI governance documents from around the world and to identify points of divergence and commonality.”**

**After reviewing the article and reading how different countries across the world deal with the generative AI revolution, discuss your views on the subject and recommend what you think could be a suitable course of action. You should justify your stance by also reviewing any papers included in this study or other relevant literature (additional links to industry have been provided as ‘Other Resources’ to the module). Your discussion should also highlight the impact your actions would have on applicable legal, social and professional issues. Please note that there is no right or wrong answer here, this exercise is to help you evaluate the legal, social ethical and professional issues that affect computing professionals in industry.**

**The word count is 1,000 for the reflection piece. You will have to include this in your e-portfolio, but you can submit it to your tutor for formative feedback before Week 12.**

Generative AI has significantly transformed the field of computer science and many other sectors. As discussed by Correa *et al*. (2023), one of the major challenges is establishing a set of coherent values and guidelines for AI development because of the diverse perspectives and abstract nature of global discourse on the topic. This reflection will discuss the current state of AI governance around the world, evaluate different international approaches, and recommend a suitable course of action. The implications of these recommendations will be considered in terms of legal, social, and professional issues.

**Current State of AI Governance**

The regulation of AI varies greatly depending on the region and will reflect different priorities, regulatory philosophies, and cultural contexts. Some areas are ahead of others in creating comprehensive frameworks, while some are still developing their approaches.

1. **European Union**: The EU has taken a proactive stance with its AI Act, which aims to regulate high-risk AI applications, ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness. The Act classifies AI systems based on risk levels and sets strict requirements for high-risk applications (European Commission, 2021). Whilst this approach aims to balance innovation with safety, its effectiveness depends on consistent implementation across member states.
2. **United States**: In contrast, the US has less cohesive regulatory landscape. Different states and federal agencies have introduced guidelines and regulations on AI use, focusing on promoting innovation whilst addressing ethical issues. This sector-specific and often inconsistent approach can lead to regulatory gaps (Cihon *et al.*, 2020).
3. **China**: China has adopted a centralised approach with its AI development guidelines, which focuses on ethical considerations and alignment with its social values. The government has also implemented strict data privacy laws. However, there are concerns about potential surveillance and privacy issues due to the centralized control (Gamito, 2023).
4. **India**: India is in the process of developing its AI policy, with the draft National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence that aims to boost research and address ethical and privacy concerns. The strategy seeks to balance innovation with social impact, but it is still evolving (Mehta *et al.*, 2023).

**Recommended Course of Action**

To address the challenges identified by Correa *et al.* (2023) and other studies, I propose the following course of action:

1. **Establishing a Global AI Ethics Framework**

Support the creation of a global AI ethics framework that incorporates existing regional regulations and aims for common standards. This framework should focus on transparency, accountability, and fairness.

A global framework would provide a unified approach to regulating AI systems, reducing discrepancies between national regulations and fostering international cooperation. Floridi (2020) argues that a global ethics framework can blend practices and ensure responsible AI development.

A common set of standards would help mitigate legal conflicts and enhance compliance across borders and a unified ethical approach can build public trust in AI technologies by ensuring they are developed and used responsibly worldwide. Clear guidelines would improve consistency and accountability in AI practices, benefiting professionals in the field.

1. **Promoting Cross-Border Collaboration**

Fostering greater collaboration among governments, industry leaders, and researchers to share best practices, research findings, and policy recommendations will be beneficial because collaborative efforts can help align diverse perspectives and generate innovative solutions to common challenges. Cihon *et al.* (2020) say that collective efforts can lead to more effective and inclusive regulations.

Collaboration can streamline regulatory processes and facilitate the adoption of consistent standards, and more collaboration will result in more unbiased solutions that address global concerns. Professionals would also benefit from a wider range of resources and insights, enhancing their ability to tackle ethical issues.

1. **Implementing Flexible Regulations**

Developing adaptive regulatory mechanisms that can evolve with technological advancements and emerging ethical issues is vital. These regulations should be flexible enough to accommodate new developments while upholding core ethical principles because the rapid pace of AI innovation requires regulations that can adapt to new challenges. Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2014) highlight the need for adaptive frameworks that keep pace with technological changes while protecting public interests.

Adaptive regulations can prevent outdated laws from impeding progress and ensure legal safeguards remain effective. Flexible regulations can better address emerging ethical issues and societal impacts, ensuring that AI advancements are beneficial to all stakeholders. Professionals would have clearer guidelines that evolve with technological advancements, aiding in effective navigation of regulatory landscapes.

**Conclusion**

The generative AI revolution brings both opportunities and challenges that require thoughtful governance. By establishing a global ethics framework, promoting cross-border collaboration, and implementing flexible regulations, we can address these challenges effectively. These actions will not only standardise international efforts but also make sure that AI advancements are responsible and beneficial, considering legal, social, and professional dimensions.

**References**

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