Collaborative Discussion 1: Peer Response 1 (276 words)

Hi Christopher,

Thank you for your contribution to this discussion. I believe this is an excellent summary, that highlights the levels of impact, starting from ethical IT practices to the fundamentals of human rights. This also comes at an interesting point in time where earlier today (05.02.25) it was announced that Google has removed its pledge to not provide artificial intelligence (AI) for weapons and surveillance technology (Hooker & Vallance, 2025). By invoking Asimov's First Law of Robotics (1950), you have underscored a long-standing ethical concern in robotics and AI: the potential for technology to cause harm to humans. This connection is critical as advancements in machine learning and AI continue to evolve, however no significant progress has been made to engage the public in this discussion and ensure full accountability (Haner & Garcia, 2019). However, from an opposing viewpoint, to enhance your discussion, you could argue that using robotic weaponry and AI can result in increased efficiency and reduced human casualties in certain scenarios.

Additionally, your mention of whistleblower suppression adds another layer of ethical complexity and illustrates how corporate interests can conflict significantly with public welfare. Dungan et al. (2019) demonstrate that the greater people's concern for the well-being of the wider public, the more likely the whistleblower will release knowledge of the wrongdoing, highlighting whistleblowing as an inherently moral duty of towards the public. There is an ongoing need for organisations to uphold integrity and foster a culture of accountability, with many contemporary examples of where this can go

wrong. Your discussion post could have greatly benefitted from some additional real-scenarios of this.

Thanks again for your post, I enjoyed reflecting on it.

References:

Asimov, I. (1950) I, Robot. *New York City: Gnome Press*.

Dungan, J.A., Young, L. & Waytz, A. (2019) The power of moral concerns in predicting whistleblowing decisions. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *85*: 103848.

Haner, J. & Garcia, D. (2019) The artificial intelligence arms race: Trends and world leaders in autonomous weapons development. *Global Policy*, *10*(3): 331-337.

Hooker, L. & Vallance, C. (2025) Concern over Google ending ban on AI weapons. BBC. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy081nqx2zjo [Accessed 5 February 2025]