**Module 2: "Lax" Kantianism**

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**“Lax” Kantianism**

Kantian ethics refers to the universal moral principles that apply to all human beings regardless of context or situation (Schmidt, J., 2024). Immanual Kant calls these principles Categorical Imperatives that are defined by their morality and level of freedom. Lax Kantianism is an adaption of Kant’s ethics that allow for flexibility and context-based interpretations of moral duties compared to traditional Kantianism.

Lax Kantianism is especially helpful with respect to software engineering. In today’s world, where software is developed and released globally, moral principles will have to be flexible to accommodate for different cultures and ethical conflicts.

**Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial intelligence has become a sensitive topic of discussion regarding engineering ethics. Software engineers must take on the moral responsibility for the actions of their AI systems. The more this topic is discussed, the more ethical constraints and guidelines are put in place. Lax Kantianism must consider this constraints and guidelines but allows for considering the context of these decisions. This can lead to a more pragmatic approach and can help solve situations where ethical principles might conflict.

Both software engineering ethics and Lax Kantianism stress the importance of user respect. While software engineers must ensure not to exploit users privacy or harm them, Lax Kantianism will use these same principles but consider them on a case-by-case basis and weigh them based on context. While this can vary, it is important that this AI decision making does not discriminate and treats everyone fairly (Mougan, C., Brand J., November 2023).

**Security and Privacy**

Moral responsibility is rooted in Lax Kantianism and ensures that the software engineers who designed and developed the system are held accountable for how their software behaves. This emphasizes the responsibility that software engineers have to develop software that protects user data and is designed with privacy as a top priority. This can become difficult because integrating safeguards and following regulations might conflict with functional features of the software.

Lax Kantianism allows contextual flexibility which can aid in finding design and development solutions to this dilemma. An example of this is a system that handles sensitive data and if this data was leaked, it could lead to harmful consequences. In this case, security may be prioritized over privacy. By following this path, software engineers can respond in ways that are not intrusive, unreliable, confusing, or dishonest (Varden, H., 2020) but will continue to enhance the users safety and trust in the system.

**My Opinion**

In my opinion, lax Kantianism will be very helpful in the present and future of software engineering. With technology rapidly evolving, there will be ethical considerations in tomorrow that we may have not considered today. By adopting a lax Kantian approach, we will be able to adjust ethical guidelines to ensure that all moral principles are considered in modern technology.

I also believe that allowing for flexibility that lax Kantianism provides helps drive innovation. As society evolves along with technology, we have to be willing to adapt and create new ethical frameworks in order to progress. This can lead to better outcomes for both the software engineers and users.

**Conclusion**

Lax Kantianism allows software engineers to continue to make ethically correct decisions in complex scenarios where more strict, traditional guidelines may not be feasible. As technology like A.I. continues to evolve, lax Kantianism ensures that users rights are respected. This helps in driving innovation while continuing to align with ethical morals.

**References**

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