

IT Ethics

Introduction

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Attribution

- introductory section from Dr. Damien Jade Duff's slides

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Topics

Introduction

Why?

Applied Ethics

IT Ethics

Policy Vacuums

Effects of IT

Method

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Why Study Ethics?

- ▶ isn't it common sense anyway?
- ▶ apparently not
- ▶ thousands of years of study
- ▶ we want to do the right thing
- ▶ what is that?
- ▶ things keep changing
- ▶ the issues are important!

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Famous Examples

- ▶ PRISM and Edward Snowden (2013): NSA secretly collects Internet communications data
- ▶ iCloud photo leak (2014): Apple security flaw causes private photos to be stolen and published
- ▶ Apple - Samsung patent wars (2011-): huge impact on IT companies
- ▶ Google vs China (2010-): Google refuses to censor search results for China

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Applied Ethics

- ▶ identify moral problem
- ▶ collect data, clarify concepts
- ▶ apply moral theories and deliberate
- ▶ approach to IT ethics as applied ethics
- ▶ Philip Brey, 2000

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Effects of Technology

- ▶ every new technology has its advantages and disadvantages
- ▶ in various degrees

examples

- ▶ nuclear energy
- ▶ smart highways
- ▶ aerosol cans

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Policy Vacuum

- ▶ every advancement creates a policy vacuum
- ▶ we need a new moral evaluation
- ▶ reduce downsides
- ▶ if necessary, give up that technology

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Policy Vacuum

- ▶ how to fill the vacuum?
- ▶ laws
- ▶ institutional policies
- ▶ individual principles

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Effects of IT

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▶ communication opportunities | ▶ privacy problems |
| ▶ medical advancements | ▶ criminal applications |
| ▶ space research | ▶ alienation |
| ▶ ... | ▶ ... |

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IT Problems

- ▶ are these problems new?
- ▶ some people say "NO"
- ▶ same as in the real world: fraud
- ▶ similar to the real world: copying software → copying books
- ▶ some people say "YES"
- ▶ not possible without IT
- ▶ without the risks and restrictions of the real world

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IT Problems

- ▶ even if the characters of problems aren't new:
- ▶ scale
- ▶ power
- ▶ persistence
- ▶ unreliable technology

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Power of Information

15,000 want off the U.S. terror watch list

Updated 11/7/2007 7:35 AM | Comment | Recommend

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By Mimi Hall, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — More than 15,000 people have appealed to the government since February to have their names removed from the terrorist watch list that delayed their travel at U.S. airports and border crossings, the Homeland Security Department says.

TERROR WATCH: List swells to more than 755,000

The complaints have created such a backlog that members of Congress are calling for a speedier appeal system that would help innocent people clear their names so they won't fall under future suspicion. Among those who have been flagged at checkpoints: toddlers and senior citizens with the same names as suspected terrorists on the watch list.

"To leave individuals in this purgatory is un-American," says Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y., who says she'll introduce legislation to try to streamline the process.

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http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-11-06-watchlist_N.htm

- ▶ US terror watch list (2007)
- ▶ 15,000 people on the list due to name clashes
- ▶ cannot use airlines

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Power of Computers

Over 300 US drone strikes in Pakistan since 2006 - leaked official data

Published time: 30 Jan, 2014 13:17

Get short URL



Supporters of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa Islamic organization hold placards and party flags as they shout slogans during a protest against U.S. drone attacks in the Pakistani tribal region, in Peshawar November 29, 2013. (Reuters/Fayaz Aziz) / Reuters

Top-secret documentation collected by Pakistani field officers gives detailed information on 330 US drone strikes that have occurred in Pakistan since 2006. The CIA-run program is estimated to have killed 2,371 people.

<https://www.rt.com/news/drones-pakistan-us-cia-military-408/>

- ▶ drone strikes in Pakistan (2014)
- ▶ killed more than 2,000 people

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Persistence of Information

Police ordered to delete records

Four police forces have been ordered to delete criminal records dating back decades because they are "no longer relevant".

The Information Commissioner told West Midlands, Humberside, Northumbria and Staffordshire forces their records on four people breached data protection.

The individuals complained to the commissioner after their history showed up in checks when they went for jobs.

Each force is appealing against the ruling.

The Association for Chief Police Officers (ACPO) said it was "regrettable" the commissioner had decided to make the cases public while they were being appealed against.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/7072241.stm



The old records turned up when the individuals applied for jobs

- ▶ England criminal records (2008)
- ▶ Information Commissioner orders police to delete old records
- ▶ 16 year old child stole meat worth 99p (1984)

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Unreliable Technology

'Resurrected,' but still wallowing in red tape

Government records incorrectly kill off thousands, and there's no easy fix

Jump to text
For a dead woman, Laura Todd is awfully articulate...

Below: Text Discuss Related



<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23378093/>

- ▶ US incorrect government data (2008)
- ▶ thousands of people appear dead
- ▶ cannot receive tax returns

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Unreliable Technology

Toyota Recalls 1.9 Million Prius Hybrids For Software Glitch

02/12/2014 02:31 am ET | Updated Apr 13, 2014

AP



JUSTIN SULLIVAN VIA GETTY IMAGES

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota is recalling 1.9 million hybrid Prius cars globally for a software glitch that could cause the vehicle to stall.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/12/toyota-recall-prius-hybrids-software-glitch_n_4771824.html

- ▶ Toyota recalls 1.9 million Prius cars (2014)
- ▶ software glitch

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Traditionalist Method

- ▶ let's apply existing principles to new problems
- ▶ software → books, movies, ...
- ▶ communication → face to face, phones, press, ...

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Traditionalist Method

- ▶ might be hard to map the concepts

what is software similar to?

- ▶ book, movie → copyright
- ▶ drugs → patent
- ▶ Coca-Cola's formula → trade secret

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Critique of Traditionalist Method

- ▶ doesn't utilize new opportunities created by technology
- ▶ copies mistakes of the past
- ▶ good starting point if not too rigid

References

Required Reading: Tavani

- ▶ Chapter 1: **Introduction to Cyberethics**