Value Sensitive Design Lab
Information School
University of Washington

Engineering for Responsibility

Melvin Kranzberg, a historian of technology, has written: "Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral" (1986, p. 545). Similarly, throughout much of his book, Wallach (2015) discusses both the positive and negative aspects of technology – indeed, in general, we might appreciate his book as an exploration of how technology is not neutral.

Consider a contemporary example that interests you – for example: smart meters, university digital identity, police-worn body cameras, implantable chips, domestic robots, personal drones, driverless cars, or some other example.

Using your example and the concept of "responsible innovation" (van den Hoven, 2013). What does it mean for an engineer to be "responsible?" Thinking ahead to your next job or, more generally, your professional goal or mission, how might you be a responsible "designer?" How might you or your colleagues employ value sensitive design for responsible innovation?

Your writing prompt. Think about van den Hoven's paper. How might value sensitive design – theory and method – be used in responsible innovation?

Format. Your writing should be about 500-600 words (4–7 paragraphs) and must be formatted as a single-page PDF document. Please include your name in the header or footer. Your writing should be concise, creative, and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

References

van den Hoven, J. (2013). Value Sensitive Design and Responsible Innovation. In *Responsible Innovation* (pp. 75–83). John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 2013. ISBN 978-1-118-55142-4.

Kranzberg, M. (1986). Kranzberg's laws. *Technology and Culture*, *27*, 544-560.

Wallach, W. (2015). *A Dangerous Master: How to Keep Technology from Slipping Beyond Our Control*. New York: Basic Books.