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I think that the metaverse is a new technology that has the potential to do more harm than good in the world. At first glance, the idea of a completely virtual world that would allow for endless interaction and socialization between people from across the world seems like a great idea. The possibilities and creativity inside a world like this are endless. However, such power comes with a lot of potential abuse of that power. Creating a whole virtual world introduces an entire society of unregulated business and intellectual property. Deep Tech Insider mentions that most countries have not updated their legal infrastructure to regulate this field. Additionally, “there are few government regulations on big data companies like Facebook in regards to personal privacy” (“What are the Risks of the Metaverse?”). Concerns for personal privacy and cybercrime is already massive in this technological age. A deeper investment in the metaverse could accelerate its expansion at a faster rate than law can control it.

I have a close relative that did research for a university that was developing a program that could track speech patterns and languages in interviews to give a measurable score for how good their interview was. On the surface, I do not have any problem with this application. In fact, I think that an application like this could be very conducive for students who are preparing for big interviews. The moral implications of this research study are quite positive. However, I fear that abuse of this technology could result in danger to the public. Like any application that analyzes a part of you, there is a risk that personal privacy could be breached and used against you. Likewise, businesses could potentially use this program to give certain interview candidates an advantage over others. Every new technology has the power to cause destruction in society. Nevertheless, it is essential that we continue to acknowledge and consider them when deciding if such technology would be more of a help than a hindrance.

One of the major parts of this article that struck me was the way governments used people's research to gain greater control over the public. I never considered how my own experimental research could influence the lives of so many people. I think that this article was a call to be more aware of who and why I am conducting research on certain technological topics. Additionally, I thought that the end where it discusses how I can stand against abusive research was reassuring. I can get caught up in thinking that my own beliefs will not make a difference in technological advancement; however, this article has proven to me that I can and I should as an ethical computer scientist.

Work Cited

“What Are the Risks of the Metaverse?” *The Deeptech Insider*, 29 Nov. 2021,

<https://thedeepTechinsider.com/2021/11/29/what-are-the-risks-of-the-metaverse/>.