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Procedural Programming

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9/18/23

Information Explosion, AI, and Privacy

The privacy of everyone is important but most often social media are the leading companies in control of everyone's information. People use it every day to share events, learn about the world and for entertainment. Except now, users are starting to realize that their exploiting their posts, comments, and feeds for their advantage. When looking at the Christian worldview, I think about a verse from Luke, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). Social media companies like Facebook are using people to fuel their own profits without regards to the golden rule. In one article, it was found that Facebook was spying on adults and teens in order to get ahead of their competition by paying them money to install an app that tracks their activity. Thankfully, it was not able to take off well as other companies that held the app, banned it but, to follow the golden rule better, there could be other technological ways and policies to stop companies from invading privacy like this.

There was also an interview where two guests were talking to an interviewer about how they felt about Facebook doing a secret study on changing their users feeds to see how it impacted their emotions. With this conversation in mind, I feel like it is important to note that there seems to be no way to fix the problem of social media platforms being able to customize the information as they see fit. It is very likely they have such terms in the user agreement that they could fight any allegations if anyone actually read them and their so extensive that most

wouldn't even have the time or patience to sit and read it fully. As the two guests stated, there could at least be more conversation or rules in place to help others feel more in control but, I honestly do not feel like it is possible when they have so much power over the world already. As for the Christian worldview and how this interview in particular fits into Luke's quote, I feel like the speaker Reynol, seemed to be hoping that they would at least be more mindful of the golden rule in hopes of not causing more harmful damage in a psychological sense. However, I still feel like there's no way to beat social media with this scope since money is really what their after compared to ethics.

The video on fake likes helped prove the point that social media will not change their ways since it benefits their profits. It completely goes against Luke's golden rule since the video highlighted specifically that Facebook knows what it is doing to people when their ads are bought. So far, there have at least been some ideas to help with the many issues social media causes but so far they also have the potential to backfire in the long run as stated in an article I found where an idea was mentioned to show a notice when posting something that could cause damage to any particular user, "At the same time, the future development of such tools also has the potential to be used against people and, consequently, raise ethical issues" (Kutschera). My hope in the future is just that we manage to educate others well enough on the dangers that it becomes harder to fall prey to them and that companies would have more interest in supporting the golden rule to help even out the damage it causes.

Works Cited

ESV Study Bible: English Standard Version. Crossway Bibles, 2016.

Kutschera, Stefan. "Incidental Data: Observation of Privacy Compromising Data on Social Media Platforms." *International Cybersecurity Law Review*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2023, pp. 91–114, <https://doi.org/10.1365/s43439-022-00071-w>.