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CSCI 77800 – Ethics and Computer Science

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Articles:

* Washington Post - A Google program can pass as a human on the phone. Should it be required to tell people it’s a machine? – Drew Harwell

[**https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2018/05/08/a-google-program-can-pass-as-a-human-on-the-phone-should-it-be-required-to-tell-people-its-a-machine/**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2018/05/08/a-google-program-can-pass-as-a-human-on-the-phone-should-it-be-required-to-tell-people-its-a-machine/)

**Google Duplex – Does one have a right to know**

**if they are interacting with a human or a robot?**

Google’s new artificial intelligence technology, released in 2018 has some amazing features that build out and improve the Google Assistant. This robot assistant mimics human speech, and emphasizes the use of “um”, “mm-hmm”, “uhh” and “hmm” (speech disfluencies) in targeted places to replicate the dialogue and cadence when talking to a human. This advanced AI can carry on conversations so seamless that humans can be fooled as to whether they are talking to a machine or a human. Should AI mimic humans? What is the goal of AI in our society at large?

Drew Harwell identifies that “Google wants its AI to be as convincing — and, yes, lifelike — as humanly possible, to ensure the listener gives compelling responses — and, hopefully, doesn't hang up.” However, there is a potential cost to this type of technology. Is this interaction a deception? Is this a lie of omission? With this passing of the touring test, must listeners consent to this interaction? When paired with voice replication software, could this technology be turned to spread misinformation or possibly be used in targeted attacks such as phishing schemes? \*How does this change the world of telemarketing and solicitation? – the FCC will certainly have to look at this new tech and adapt their rules and regulations to ensure the public is not harmed. In regard to regulation, the author proposes a range of possibilities. This could include a requirement for bots to self-identify, or in the least, identify when asked directly if they are a robot, up to a requirement for a specific voice or text style that would identify right away to the human party that one is interacting with a robot.

Do we behave differently when interacting with a machine vs a human? Why? Being nice to your robots may be the best way to go because they will remember ☺ - Please and thank you goes a long way with humans and why not Alexa/Siri/google assistant?