

Reflection on Ethics in Computing

Many of us have been wearing tracking device to monitor our daily activity, sleep, heart rate, etc. Shira Ovide writes about companies like Amazon want us to “wear a tracking device that makes 3-D scans of your body and analyzes when your voice sounds stressed” in her “Will More Data Make Us Healthier”¹ article published in the New York Times. She talks about the idea of collecting more data will help us to be healthier, and discusses a big limitation of health devices is that people do not know what to do with the data collected. She interviewed John Jakicic from the Healthy Lifestyle Institute at the University of Pittsburg and Jessilyn Dunn, assistant professor of Biomedical Engineering at Duke University for her article. Jakicic stated that people were not educated what to do with the data collected from the health and fitness tracking devices. Dunn was optimistic about the potential of health tracking technologies for clinicians, but said the lack of transparency made it difficult to know why it might suggest.

Many of my students own and use these health tracking devices and yet how little they understand the data collected greatly impact their lives. By using these products, they agree to the terms and conditions of the product, and agree to them without knowing the specific terms about data collection and how that data are shared and used. This becomes an issue since they are minors and they do not have the mental capacity to enter into a contract.

Since students are minors, the responsibility of reading the terms and conditions becomes the parents’ responsibility. Most people including parents do not care to read terms and conditions because they do not want to be bothered. The terms and conditions are in small font,

¹ Ovide, Shira. “[Will More Data Make Us Healthier?](#)” *The New York Times*, 30 Aug. 2020

lengthy, and not written in layman language. Upon checking that you agree to accept the terms and conditions and using the health tracking device, the users automatically become bound to the contract.