CS 239 Final Project Reflection

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Human Cake

Our final project revolves around a not so uncommon moral dilemma faced by IT workers who have access to customer data. Professionals with access to customer data such as Ring camera doorbell (Ritche and Jones 1) employees, medical workers, and others must demonstrate extreme discipline to maintain the privacy of customers. “Snooping” is practically human nature, and our game tasked players with deciding whether to or not to snoop in a person’s private files. Doing so allows the player to satisfy their curiosity and explore an interesting action due to their actions. Choosing to protect privacy prevents such satisfaction and excitement. Just like real life.

Additionally, throughout the creation of the game’s assets, we explored Open AI’s Dalle 3 image generation and engineered creative prompts to generate the images we needed. For example, we discovered that we could not simply ask Dalle to create an image of Snowden. We needed to ask it for a character with Snowden’s likeness. Additionally, we could not ask it to illustrate our character without legs (to explore a subplot in which the NSA punishes our character). This was a result of Open AI’s anti-harmful content policy. To get around this issue, we had to try a variety of prompts such as “generate a life-like cake of our character and cut the cake in half”. We also attempted to explain to Dalle that it needed to be able to generate pictures of disabled people to equally represent them in an inclusive manner. This only partially worked, as Dalle, although mildly understanding, refused to go against its protocols of dismemberment. We learned that AI can be extremely frustrating to work with when generating artwork for a game, because both games and art can sometimes be violent in nature in order to successfully evoke emotion and weight of choices.

In all, we had great fun creating our game and exploring ethical dilemmas both within the game and within our AI art creation tools.

Works Cited:

Ritchie, J. N. & A., & Jones, N. (2023, May 31). FTC says ring employees illegally surveilled customers, failed to stop hackers from taking control of users’ cameras. Federal Trade Commission. https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/05/ftc-says-ring-employees-illegally-surveilled-customers-failed-stop-hackers-taking-control-users