

1 Question

Should we as a society adhere to a specific type of ethical frameworks or should we mix different frameworks based on context? And if we choose to mix, how can we know how to balance different frameworks?

2 The Politics of Artifacts

An example of a technological artifact that has politics is any **social media website**, such as twitter. Lots of political discourse and political discussion happens on these large social media websites and many peoples different viewpoints are shifted or formed based on social media.

-The politics is unintentional, since these websites weren't created for the main purpose of political but rather just for different people to connect

-The designers likely played no role at all in the actual politics since the app wasn't developed for that.

I think the consequences are the same because it just leads to shifted viewpoints.

3 Technologies you wouldn't help build?

Personally I don't think I could help build software for defense companies that are known for their weapons harming lots of people. I think there is a lot of politics behind that and I would rather keep my conscious clean.

I also personally think its okay to just do work for money, and it doesn't need to necessarily be particularly good or bad.

4 Utilitarianism

4.a Act Utilitarianism

This is when you approach each decision by weighing out the pros and cons of if something produces a net overall good. This framework of thinking does not take into account the means, but rather just the outcome.

Morally relevant beings to me means any individual whose feelings/emotions are important to calculating the overall happiness. I think this includes humans and most animals who can think at a comprehensive level, which would be obviously common pet animals but also other types of animals such as pets.

Pros:

- Focuses on happiness
- Its practical
- Easy to comprehend

Cons:

- Takes a lot of energy to do this for every moral decision
- Ignores an innate sense of duty sometimes(?)

4.b Rule Utilitarianism

The idea that we should all adhere to certain moral rules and if everyone follows those rules, it would lead to maximal happiness **Pros:**

- Not every moral decision requires utilitarianism calculus

- Reduces moral bias

Cons:

- Focuses use on a single scale for evaluating completely different kinds of consequences
- Ignores problem of unjust distribution of good consequences
 - Wrong people can receive this "good" as a result

5 Kantianism

Kantianism focuses on the nature of actions rather than the consequences of those actions.

Formulation 1: Act only in ways where you wouldn't want your actions to become universal law for all. Can everyone, in principle do this without any issue?

Formulation 2: Act in a way such that you treat humanity not just as a means of an end but as individual people that you respect. This emphasizes dignity and respecting others for who they are.

I think that the first formulation about universal law is much more useful because it is a lot easier to apply directly and helps you make smarter decisions.

I feel like the biggest **weakness** in Kant's theories is that it doesn't account for the consequences of actions. I understand that the motivation is important, but the consequences are often just as important. For example, *why do we give consequences to people who accidentally run over/hit others with their car?* I think its important we focus on a balance between motivations/the nature of actions while also paying heed to their results.

6 Mailing Job

I would personally take the job either way even if I passionately disagreed with them. I think at the end of the day if I don't write the software someone else will, so I might as well. However, there is one thing I would want to know: the context of what the organization is involved with. If it is involved with something that hurts other people, etc then I could not take the job regardless for my consciousness.

I think if I was running the company I would have an obligation to try to stay unbiased and providing services to anyone who wants to use them, provided they aren't abusing them. I would also have to provide tech support if they purchased my product.