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Data Ethics

For each of the four major areas of Data Ethics, mention a situation that you have experienced that involved the corresponding area of Data Ethics. Say whether or not (in your opinion) the issue was handled satisfactorily. Finally, state how you might improve the handling of Data Ethics in similar situations in the future.

Fairness

Ownership

I read an article that stated that Google and Mega were fined by a French independent administrative regulatory body known as the Commission Nationale Information & Libertés (CNIL) at the end of 2021 to a total amount of 210m euros. This was regarding the two companies' websites not having the choice to reject the cookies from the website/applications. For the users, there was the option to accept the cookies or select certain cookies. There was, however, no option to reject all cookies. To the best of my knowledge, the companies attempted to change this by implementing a "Strictly Necessary Cookies" method in which still didn't solve the original problem. Situations like this could be improved in the future by, from the start, implementing the option to decline the cookies from the beginning.

Privacy

One data privacy issue that I know about is about Apple Airtags. Airtags are small disks that can be either left in something or attached on to something, like a key ring. With this, a person can use their iPhone to locate where the Airtag is located. One problem with this is that people can use these to stalk others. There have been reports that people are placing the Airtags in people's jacket pockets or in a person's purse or bag. This has led to the stalker to be able to identify both where the person is at that moment and what their locational habit is. There isn't a lot of ability to regulate that, unfortunately. Apple has been contacted in connection to these risks but have not done a lot yet to attempt to make this a safer item to have to the public. In my opinion, these products should be recorded with unique identifying numbers. Like what occurs with buying a drone where it is recorded who it belongs to, that way if a person is using them for illegal purposes, it can be traced back to them.

Validity

One instance of where I had to deal with data validity is with this project that we are working on. I have encountered information that has been obtained that has not been properly filled in or is lacking certain information that would be needed to insert into the table itself. In order to handle these records I just made it so that these records are passed and not inserted into the table.