INFO 350

Professional Ethics II

INFO Policy, Law, and Ethics...

YouTube Is Finally Banning Nazis, Holocaust Denial, and Sandy Hook Truthers

YouTube says it will "remove content denying that well-documented violent events took place."

YouTube policies

- "Content moderation"
  - Remember – platforms do not have to allow or deny any particular kind of speech – so long as it is lawful (and there isn't much that isn't lawful).

- The platform's policies now ban Nazis, Holocaust denial, and Sandy Hook trutherism, in addition to "videos alleging that a group is superior in order to justify discrimination."

- This is a big change.

This policy will result in banning speech whose content I think should be heard.

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Not likely

Total Results

In-Lecture Reflection – June 6th

- What do you think about this YouTube decision?
  - Is this a good, pretty good, or terrible approach to problems of low quality and misleading information?
  - Do you think major platforms should ban or restrict more or less speech than they do now?
  - Can you think of any other ways to improve the quality of information that is most visible online?

Overview of Ethics in Tech Practice

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What *Is* Ethics? It Is *Not*:

- Legal/Corporate 'Compliance' (Legal ≠ Ethical; Ethical ≠ Legal)
- A Set of Fixed Rules to Follow (No fixed set of rules can cover all ethical cases/contexts)
- A Purely Negative Frame: ("Don't do that! Or That! Or THAT!")
- Subjective Sense of Right/Wrong ("You have your ethics, I have mine")
- Religious Belief ("It's right/wrong simply because my religion says so")
- Uncritical Obedience to Authority ("Good Germans'/'Good Americans")

Ethics *Is*:

- Promoting objective (but context & culture-dependent) conditions of human flourishing
- Respecting the dignity of others and the duties created in our relationships to them
- Living as a person of integrity and principle
- Promoting beneficial and just outcomes, avoiding and minimizing harm to other
- Cultivating one's own character to become increasingly more noble and excellent
- A skillful practice of moral perception, sensitivity, and flexible, discerning judgment
- Learning to more expertly see and navigate the moral world and its features

Ethical toolkit (Markkula Center)

- **Tool 1: Ethical Risk Sweeping**
- **Tool 2: Ethical Pre-mortems and Post-mortems**
- **Tool 3: Expanding the Ethical Circle**
- **Tool 4: Case-based Analysis**
- **Tool 5: Remembering the Ethical Benefits of Creative Work**
- **Tool 6: Think About the Terrible People**
- **Tool 7: Closing the Loop: Ethical Feedback and Iteration**

Ethical toolkit (Markkula Center)

- **Tool 1: Ethical Risk Sweeping:** *Ethical risks* are choices that may cause significant harm to persons or other entities with a moral status, *or* are likely to spark acute moral controversy for other reasons. Failing to anticipate and respond to such risks can constitute *ethical negligence*. Just as scheduled penetration testing and risk sweeping are standard tools of good cybersecurity practice, ethical risk sweeping is an essential tool for good design and engineering practice.

Ethical toolkit (Markkula Center)

- **Tool 6: Think About the Terrible People:** Positive thinking about our work, as Tool 5 reminds us, is an important part of ethical design. But we must not envision our work being used only by the wisest and best people, in the wisest and best ways. In reality, technology is power, and there will always be those who wish to abuse that power.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmUC4m6w1wo&t=15s

- **Tool 7: Closing the Loop: Ethical Feedback and Iteration:** Ethical design and engineering is never a finished task—it is a loop that we must ensure gets closed, to enable ethical iteration and improvement.

Extra credit discussion

- One: First, post a response to the discussion in your own name.

- Two: Team up with a partner and compare answers.

- Four: As a pair, discuss with another pair – <u>add to your post what you heard from everyone else, esp. what you had in common, if anything.</u>

- All: I will call on a few of you to share what you discussed.

- **What is one thing you will take away from this class?**

Thanks for a great quarter. Have a nice summer!