

## **Addictive Design**

This was a very interesting concept, and I enjoyed the comparison between TikTok and Duolingo and the discussion pertaining to the value each one brought to the end user's life. I would agree that Duolingo would be the better of the two options for spending your time. I was thinking about how Duolingo does a lot to keep their users engaged and to visit the platform on a daily basis, but how they "release" the user after the daily tasks are complete. I was wondering if there should be similar "release" mechanisms built into social media platforms, or even daily usage limits?

## **Questionable Personal Data Ownership & Weak Security and PII Protection**

I want to combine these two topics because not only does it seem to be a problem for some people to have their information collected and stored, but it's a safety concern as well. No information on the internet is ever 100% secure, there are always risks and vulnerabilities. I would argue that to some degree your information is a little safer with the larger companies present on the internet because they are usually spending a lot of money on cyber security to protect their customers (not always). But what about all the small companies online? Anytime I go on social media, I get bombarded with ads to purchase random junk from all sorts of vendors. I refuse to purchase anything through any of them because I don't like the idea of my personal information, let alone my credit card numbers and address being sprinkled in databases, servers, and company computers all over the world. As computer science students and professionals, some of us have the luxury of knowing firsthand how all this stuff works and whether we want to participate or not. I don't trust that every developer and company is doing their due diligence to protect my information and I think that is also an argument for questionable personal data ownership. A solution to this? I'm not sure, I think it would have to be proving that there is a secure level of encryption of data and healthy cyber security practices on the backend before data collection is even allowed by a web page or app.

## **Algorithmic Bias**

It makes sense to me that bias could arise from bad data. If I feed a convolutional neural network a bunch of cat images labeled as dogs, it will be trained to recognize a cat, but will call it a dog. Machines are only as smart as we program them to be, and this becomes increasingly important as algorithms are present in all our daily lives. We must make sure that the data we train our models with is accurate and paints a full picture of the problem at hand. The same with the software we write. Programs can be hardcoded to behave in certain ways, which can be biased as well, so it's not only the data. I think the only way to combat this is through regulation.