

Ethics Essay

Maxwell Talley

I chose to read about OpenAI and their decision to keep their advanced text-generating system private for fear of it being misused by bad actors. If I was in charge of making the decision to take it public or keep it private, I would have done what the company ended up choosing to do: keep it private. The world has become very familiar with fake news, bots, and many other kinds of spam that relies on some level of AI. I think it would be better to keep access to this technology restricted, especially since this is the most advanced version of this technology right now. I think once more companies and organizations develop this technology, it would be alright to make it public. While other companies are developing this, the world will have time to adjust to how big of a change this will be. I believe one of the biggest pitfalls of the technology boom was how fast it happened. It didn't give the world any time to adjust to the ways that it would alter society, and so we've been susceptible to wrongdoing and lies. Releasing this technology before people are ready to deal with the consequences would lead to a great misuse of something that could be extremely beneficial to humanity.

I believe that the leadership at OpenAI had similar reasoning to what I said. It wouldn't make sense for them to keep this text-generation AI private as a way of holding onto control of a market. OpenAI is a nonprofit, and would thus not be motivated by the same things that a for-profit company would be. Another reason I believe they thought this way is because of Elon Musk, who has publicly expressed concern about how AI will impact society in the future. Maybe they have some other less obvious motive, but to me, it makes the most sense that they thought this way.