

1. Scenario

If software used in autonomous vehicles has errors, it could lead to accidents and loss of life.

2. Ethics of the Scenario

a. Respect for life

If an accident were responsible for some deaths and accidents. The damage caused will be in the responsibility of the company who made the bug in the first place. The company will face fines for damages that cannot be given monetary value. However, the law must make it up to the people who are damaged so they must put a dollar value on life. The real-life impacts may be people, but the damage will be treated as an inherent money trade-off. This line of thinking does not value respect for life, instead it is viewed as a cost-to-damage analysis of what is the minimum amount of money that we can put into safety to not get a fine, if the cost to fix it is higher than the company accepts the risk that someone will die.

b. Public Trust

Software accidents are rare but do occur in the real world, this is because if an accident occurs it can easily be patched over the internet, and the bug will never occur again. As technology continues to grow cars will become even safer than before and will save a lot more lives than it will ever kill. For example, software can figure out a faulty issue with the car before it happens, preventing more damage. In terms of public trust, people are misleading that software in cars is unsafe as when an extremely rare bug does happen it is shared loudly across the news as opposed to the actual statistics that non-software cars do more damage. The ultimate safety feature in the future will be self-driving cars as they replace the clumsy human that make mistakes on the road. Ultimately humans are the most likely to be at cause for a car crash rather than anything else.