

Case Study: Big Data & COVID-19

Identify Sources:

- 1) <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/news/covid-19-raises-ethical-dilemmas-many-physicians>

Summary:

As the COVID-19 pandemic increases the numbers of critically ill patients flowing into hospitals, doctors in many areas are facing an increased shortage in vital equipment and supplies. In some cases, this can present ethical dilemmas to physicians who must choose between patients or choose between their own safety or providing care. The core issue is relevant to ethical frameworks we have learned because the physicians must use their own perspective to make a decision that may be considered unethical. My reaction to this article is that COVID-19 is making it very difficult for many people to go along with their days, therefore, we must respect physicians and stay home.

- 2) <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/welcome-ad?toURL=/clinical-care/4-ethical-dilemmas-healthcare-organizations-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Summary:

There are four ethical problems that are consistent within this coronavirus pandemic. Treatment, testing, healthcare workers, and vaccines are very important to the solution to this pandemic. The core issue is relevant to ethical frameworks we have learned because the hospitals, testers, and vaccine creators are working at a pace that may not be fast enough to save as many lives as they should be saving. However, my initial reaction to this was that we must continue to stay home in order to save lives.

- 3) <https://www.apple.com/covid19/contacttracing>

Summary:

Software developers are contributing by crafting technical tools to help combat the virus and save lives. In this spirit of collaboration, Google and Apple are announcing a joint effort to enable the use of Bluetooth technology to help governments and health agencies reduce the spread of the virus, with user privacy and security central to the design. As part of this partnership Google and Apple are releasing draft documentation for an Exposure Notification system in service of privacy-preserving contact tracing. The core issue is the amount of digital privacy that may be getting stolen or looked at may make it hard to implement. My initial reaction was that this should be good to trace the virus, however, what if this causes further problems?

- 4) <https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2020/04/20/privacy-covid-19-data-collection/>

Summary:

As countries and companies focus on technologies such as tracking, tracing and testing to fight the pandemic, it's critical that they also protect people's privacy. They are offering seven principles as ideas to consider as we move into the next phases of helping to fight this pandemic. The core issue within this article reveals that microsoft will be preserving privacy while helping to trace COVID-19. This allows users to understand that their regulations will not be crossed with unethical solutions. My initial reaction was that Microsoft is letting users know that they will not be stepping on anyone's foot while their research is being conducted.

- 5) <https://www.ibm.com/security/covid-19>

Summary:

IBM Security is making some of their critical technologies, top threat intelligence information, and best practices for the remote workforce available to you at no charge. Their global team is available to virtually extend your security operations and share our expertise to optimize your security posture. The core issue within this article states that cyber-security may be at the top of the food chain in order of problems to yet come. My initial response was that we must ensure all of our data information and points are encrypted well enough that they are not stolen.

Building The Case:

Interesting Theme:

The theme that I chose was "Ethical Violations" of data points or information that lots of companies/hospitals are keeping track off during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommended Readings:

I recommend reading Medical Economics or Microsoft Protection in order to understand what is right/wrong about these companies and their actions during this pandemic?

Questions:

Are they violating any ethical frameworks that are already present in research studies? Is data privacy a bigger concern now than before the pandemic?

Learning Outcomes:

The learning outcomes I would have for my case are for them to learn that companies must still use ethical frameworks in order to comply with the law. In addition, it is important to understand that data privacy is not compromised and is still a national concern. It should fuel discussion about data invasion, scapegoating, and ethical frameworks being highlighted.