Thank you for the interesting and important analysis in your blog post. The analysis of the implementation of Blocker Plus (BP) in US schools to comply with CIPA regulations quite insightful. The decision to maintain the machine learning (ML) model despite complaints of censorship overreach raises important ethical concerns, particularly in relation to discrimination against protected classes and the promotion of equal access to information.

As you mentioned, ML algorithms have been known to perpetuate societal prejudices and bias (Smith, 2021; Lipton et al., 2018). By allowing the ML model to persist, BP leadership failed to comply with the BCS Code of Conduct, which prohibits discrimination against protected classes and emphasizes the need for fair access to information for all sectors of society (BCS, 2022). This violation becomes even more significant when considering politically-charged content, where the protection of individuals or groups extends to the safeguarding of diverse viewpoints (Cornell University, 2022). To address these ethical concerns, it would have been more appropriate for BP to revert to the older analog model of filtering while reinforcing the ML model (Schneier, 2021).

I agree with your assessment of the risks associated with legal compliance and business incentives, and I believe it is crucial to prioritize ethical requirements and equal access to all non-blacklisted content. Safeguarding children's access to appropriate online content is important, and means should be devised and efforts taken to safeguard this while ensuring at the same time that discourse is not stifled.

Your analysis adds depth to the ongoing discussion surrounding the professional practice and the ethical side of computing.

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