I recently joined a local (St. Louis) area user group called the St Louis Machine Learning user group. On Tuesday September 10, I attended a meetup with this group which as a panel discussion on “Ethics and AI Panel Discussion”. There were 56 professionals in attendance and there was a panel of six professionals ranging from practicing data scientists to a marketing person and a PhD in data science. It was an interesting discussion with topics which included the role of a data scientist regarding ethics in using AI and machine learning and the role of government and companies as well. Some believed that data scientist should educate non-technical people on what data science is and what AI applications are being used and how they work. Others thought they just need to know “what is it doing to me and what is it doing for me”.

I met a four or five folks at the event. One person was Russian and was a researcher in the School of Medicine at Washington University. Another person was a data scientist fresh out of college and worked for the St. Louis City. He learned Python in college but appeared that R was being used instead. The person who heads up the group was “retiring” from the position and gave a speech. She worked for Nestle Corp. There was another person who was unemployed and dropped out of college at the event. There was a variety of age and ethnic groups represented.

One of the best things about the group was that they work with companies in St. Louis and post jobs opportunities with them and provide contact information pertaining to the jobs. I will continue to work with this group as it is a good opportunity to find job leads.