

If Robots Don't Kill People (or Steal our Jobs), Who Does?

Peter McKay, Nisansa De Silva, Elizabeth Fuller, Bradley Green, Gautam Sundur
Information and Computer science Department
University of Oregon
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Abstract— In the following paper, we carry out an examination of two related ethical quandaries concerning the increasing degree [1] of automation in the modern world. First, we consider the ethics of existing systems, exploring the case in which automated systems make choices apparently on their own, and what kind of moral reasoning we face in such situations. We consider the idea that systems may act as moral agents, or as proxy agents [2] for the humans involved in their design and deployment. Secondly, we examine a somewhat more fundamental issue: is it right to automate these tasks in the first place? Rather than trying to achieve answers both general and correct, we will instead lay out a framework which may be put to use in the pursuit of answers for specific questions.

I. ETHICS OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS

II. AUTOMATION AND LABOR

A. History of the Industrial Revolution

*B. Differences Between Industrial Revolution and
Second Machine Age*

C. Effects of Automation on Developed vs. Developing Countries

D. Current and Future Effects of Automation

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III. AUTOMATION AND LABOR

A. Attempted and Proposed Solutions

IV. CONCLUSION

REFERENCES

- [1] Carl Benedikt Frey and Michael A Osborne, “The future of employment: how susceptible are jobs to computerisation,” September 2013.
- [2] Deborah G Johnson and Thomas M Powers, “Computers as surrogate agents,” *Information technology and moral philosophy*, pp. 251–269, 2008.