Notes Nov 19 2018

Project Dragonfly

* Made by Google

Pushback

* US Policymakers accuse Google of being evasive
  + Refused to answer any specific questions
  + “Too early to know exactly what the company’s path forward will be

Google’s Response

* Always balancing a set of values
  + “We are providing users access to information, freedom of expression, user privacy, but we also follow the rule of law in every country.” (9to5Google)
  + China doesn’t have freedom-of-speech
* Claimed Benefits
  + Serve over 99% of queries

Why stay involved?

* Money?
  + 1.4 Billion Consumer Market
    - 20% of the world’s population
* Core Mission?
  + Providing information to everyone
* Why would you stay involved

What about fear?

* Former Google chief predicts Internet split by 2028
  + Chinese and American
  + China currently has thriving network with little to zero influence from American online services.
    - Eg. Facebook, Google

Alibaba

* City-Brained

Alibaba vs Google – Gov’t Relations

* Alibaba
  + Chinese based company
  + Strong political ties to the Chinese Government
  + Alibaba Cloud provides
* Google
  + Joint lawsuit with Microsoft against FISA gag order (2013)
    - Ability to be transparent and publish government data-requests
    - Project Maven – U.S. Military project involving Google’s AI

Alibaba vs Google – Employee’s

* Alibaba
  + “In China, people have less concern with privacy”
* Google
  + Project Maven pushback
    - “Develop a new set of ethical principles to guide the development of military A.I.

Alibaba vs Google – Results

* Government Relations
  + Winner – Google
    - Alibaba will blindly hand over citizen data, while Google has a history of fighting back against government data-requests

Summary

* Should Google be involved with the Dragonfly Project?
  + Yes
* The search engine will be created with or without the help from Google
* Only two companies able to provide this service at scale.

Overview

* What is Dragonfly?

What is Dragonfly?

* In August of 2018, Google employees leaked documents exposing Google’s plan

Google’s “Don’t Be Evil”

* “Don’t be evil.” Googlers generally apply those words to how we serve our users. But “Don’t

China and Google’s History

* 2000 – Google offers a Chinese-language Google.com – heavy filtering prevents users from accessing it 10% of the time
* 2003 – Google is blocked in China
* Jan 2006 – G

Defining Complicity in Censorship

* Where Google could claim that Chinese critics were throttling their services for not censoring materials before, now they’re actively collaborating and agreeing to censor search results
* Google’s

Concluding Remarks

* Google has broken their founding principle of “Don’t be evil” by creating a censored search engine project with China

Discussion Questions

* Is Dragonfly technically Google’s fault, when China is the one that’s pushing for censorship?
* Is ‘Don’t be Evil’ a valid guiding principle for a company? Can a company act ethically?
* At what point can you sacrifice your morals (“Don’t be evil”) to appeal to a broader audience for money?