

Freya succinctly conveys the breadth and range of implications this case represents. Part of the challenge of this case are the parties impacted and involved as well as the complexity of impacts, from societal to legal and professional. While it's outside of the scope of this post to cover everything in its entirety, I've instead decided to review a handful of challenges this case represents.

While the application for machine learning has increased tremendously, there are some areas where its use should be handled with caution, or otherwise be avoided entirely (Horvitz and Mulligan, 2015). In this case, using machine learning to manage content availability in an education setting is problematic for a number of reasons. In corporate settings content availability has largely been handled by hardware or cloud based firewalls and while smart algorithms and even machine learning can be applied to these systems there is still a heavy reliance on human interaction to oversee the execution of content restriction (Abu Al-Haija and Ishtaiwi, 2021). If organizations still manage content through human driven firewall rules perhaps the same level of oversight should be measured for platforms managing the availability of content to children in educational settings. Nevermind the labyrinthian complexity that comes with working with highly varied school boards, municipalities, counties, provinces or states. There are questions that need to be answered at almost every level from household to federal.

References:

Abu Al-Haija, Q. and Ishtaiwi, A. (2021). Machine Learning Based Model to Identify Firewall Decisions to Improve Cyber-Defense. *International Journal on Advanced Science, Engineering and Information Technology*, 11(4), p.1688. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Qasem-Abu-Al-Haija/publication/354227799_Machine_Learning_Based_Model_to_Identify_Firewall_Decisions_to_Improve_Cyber-Defense/links/612e4be338818c2eaf72ad54/Machine-Learning-Based-Model-to-Identify-Firewall-Decisions-to-Improve-Cyber-Defense.pdf [Accessed 31 Jan. 2022].

Horvitz, E. and Mulligan, D. (2015). Data, privacy, and the greater good. *Science*, 349(6245), pp.253–255. Available at: http://erichorvitz.com/data_privacy_greater_good.pdf [Accessed 31 Jan. 2022].

