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SE 494

SE 494 – Ethics Assignment

1. OpenAI Case Study

If I was a software engineer in this case, I would take 2 simple actions: Determine the issue at hand, formulate an effective solution. In the case of the OpenAI software, the issue is the functionality of this software and how it has positive/negative effects in the public domain. For example, if this technology was released into the public, some developers would begin using the tech for nefarious projects. If the goal is to create text sections or write news stories, some people could use this tech to write fake or defamatory articles. Finally, to solve this problem we have a few options. First, we could release the software to the public as-is. This creates ethical problems as a result of the functions it contains. The next option would be to release a modified version of the software to the public. This modified version could be limited to which phrases to use or what applications it would integrate into.

As mentioned in the case study, the OpenAI engineers decided to remove their software from public domain. This solution is the simplest and lets the engineers continue working on the feature set before making a new public release. I believe they took this route as to keep the OpenAI software from making its way into malware or other negative development projects. This solution does create some ethical problems. First, by not releasing this software to the public, it leaves a bad notion of the product not being as powerful. Second, this option creates ethical problems in the sense that it does not hold honest in the original claims of the software.