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Assignment I

* 1. One likely effect of self-driving cars on the design of cities is a redesign of traffic control measures. If the cars drive themselves, then there would be no need for traffic lights, visual indications for human eyes to perceive when to stop and when to go. Instead, a network of automobile computers would decipher when each car is to stop and when to go. Instead of pedestrians having to wait for a signal to cross the road because traffic has the right-of-way, they may be allowed to simply walk across at their leisure and the vehicles would have to yield. Another effect would be the elimination of automated traffic violation detection systems such as cameras that detect when a human driver is speeding. If the cars are programmed to only follow the speed limit, these cameras become useless for detecting violations.
  2. One undesired use of social networking is people posting content featuring another person for the purposes of embarrassing him/her or threatening to do so as blackmail. Rather than listing another use, I’ll some effects of utilizing social networking too often. The most popular social media sites are designed to keep one’s eyes fixed to the screen for as long as possible. Excessive time spent browsing through social media is time not spent doing arguably more productive things such as studying for tests, going to the gym, touching grass, etc.
  3. Ordinary people used to rely on university professors (experts) to teach them physics, economics, etc. in-depth. Khan Academy has made in-depth knowledge on these subjects available for free. Another example ordinary people being able to circumvent experts due to technology is blogging. A person wanting to share his/her opinion in print and to scale used to have to go through a newspaper. Now, this person can express his/her opinions to the masses with just a few clicks of the mouse.
  4. Utilitarianism considers the impact on utility or happiness brought about by actions. Rule utilitarianism considers this by general ethical rules.
  5. In the context of freedom of speech, positive rights mean persons be granted the ability to voice their opinions and ideas in forums where the owners of those forums may not want them. This may mean media platforms (e.g., radio stations, video streaming services) be forced to publish content they have no desire to. Negative rights in this context means the government may not bring negative action against you based on what you say (unless what you threaten to commit or incite the committing of illegal acts).