

## **Initial Post**

The case of Blocker Plus raises several legal, social, and professional concerns surrounding its content filtering system. Legally, the system was designed to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) by blocking content harmful to minors. However, due to a flawed machine learning implementation, its over-blocked legitimate content on topics like gay and lesbian marriage, vaccination, and climate change, which do not fall under CIPA. This overreach could expose the company to legal risks for restricting access to information unnecessarily (Bambauer, 2013).

Socially, this over-filtering undermines trust in such systems and hinders students from accessing important information, affecting their education and personal growth by reducing their ability to develop information literacy skills (Batch, 2014, p. 30).

Professionally, the computing professionals at Blocker Plus did not exercise adequate care and oversight, violating the BCS Code of Conduct which mandates consideration for public health, privacy, security, and well-being (BCS, 2021, p. 3). The developers failed to implement safeguards against corrupted inputs and did not sufficiently disclose the system's limitations.

The BCS Code also requires professionals to maintain competence and awareness of developments in their field (BCS, 2021, p. 4). Blocker Plus's failure to properly anticipate and manage the risks of applying machine learning illustrates a lack of professional competence. The company's inadequate response, choosing to maintain the flawed model rather than revert to a more reliable system, further highlights these professional shortcomings.

To better comply with the BCS Code, Blocker Plus needed to conduct thorough testing, risk assessment, and transparent communication regarding the system's capabilities and limitations, thereby ensuring ethical adherence to professional standards.

## **References:**

Bambauer, D.E., 2013. Censorship v3. 1. IEEE Internet Computing, 17(3), pp.26-33.

Batch, K.R., 2014. Fencing out knowledge: Impacts of the Children's Internet Protection Act 10 years later. Policy Brief No. 5. Chicago, IL: American Library Association.

BCS, 2021. BCS Code of Conduct. [online] Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf> [Accessed 10 September 2021]. CopyRetryClaude does not have internet access. Links provided may not be accurate or up to date. Claude can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.