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Data Ethics 2

I find the two articles for this week's reading interesting since they relate to my previous comments in Data Ethics 1. I mentioned the risk of having an artificial intelligence system (AI) that was too cynical and did harmful things to our society, and the piece by Ms. Bossmann further acknowledged it. I reckon the "evil genies" of an AI system will cause the most harm to us since it can outsmart us in a way we cannot think of. Furthermore, the AI system might be able to learn from humans' bad habits, like the Chinese's police wrongful use of surveillance system, and take those actions as a norm. Developing an AI system is like raising a child; an AI system does not have just one or two parents, but it has nearly eight billion people on Earth to be its parents. Being able to teach AI to distinguish between a good habit and a bad habit will not be easy, and I think it will become something that computer scientists and neuroscientists need to work on in the near future. Therefore, that is why the ACM updated its Code of Ethics and wanted scientists who work on such systems to adhere to it. I think it is essential to follow a general code like the ACM's since we have lots of companies that are developing AI systems at the same time all over the world. If the ACM decides to update the Code again in 2036, I think they will now need a section about developing AI's moral ability. I believe in 2036, the AI systems we build today will be ready to use, and for them to live and serve human society, it needs the ability to recognize the moral compass just as we do. Political philosopher Thomas Hobbes once said that the human nature would be completely chaotic and disorganized. Thus, we

needed to surrender some of our rights to be governed – a social contract – so we could mutually live for the better. I think we need something like what Hobbes has said about human nature, that AI systems would also need to be governed. Besides, one of the things in the ACM article that stroked me was how the ACM had paid attention to serving the common good by requiring big technology like Google to be responsible for their databases. I am glad that the ACM already has a clause about responsibility to be implemented, as we rely on technological services nearly every day. Those service providers must further acknowledge the risk of having a leak or compromise on our personal data and take adequate measures to protect it.