Professional Issues: Facebook Data Mining Debate

Your assessment for the professional issues portion of CS1Q will consist of a short position statement (500 words) and participation in a class debate (responses gathered from YACRS).

The topic of the debate will be professional and ethical issues surrounding data mining at Facebook.

Essential reading is available on Moodle:

Emotional contagion through social networks. Adam D. I. Kramer, Jamie E. Guillory, Jeffrey T. Hancock. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Jun 2014, 111 (24) 8788-8790; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1320040111

Helpful commentary:

http://www.forbes.com/sites/kalevleetaru/2016/06/17/are-research-ethics-obsolete-in-the-era-of-big-data/#62e8c77e1cb9

http://motherboard.vice.com/read/70000-okcupid-users-just-had-their-data-published

Debate Topic

Imagine you are a software engineer at Facebook with access to all users' data. Consider the following open-ended questions:

- Who owns the data the users post onto Facebook? For example, consider photos, status updates, and personal information.
- What responsibilities do software engineers have to the people who use the systems that they create?
- Is it ethical to use a platform like Facebook to influence users' emotions?

Assessment

You must write a 500 word position statement of your opinion on **one of the three questions** provided above. You should also consider your opinions on the other two topics to prepare yourself for the debate during class, where you will need to respond to the debate questions using YACRS.

Deadlines

Your 500 word position should be submitted on Moodle.

The debate will take place during class.

Check Moodle for all dates and deadlines.

Marking Scheme

Position Statement	
You have selected a topic from the three questions provided.	2
You have expressed an opinion on the topic you have selected	3
Debate Participation	
One point for each response, up to a maximum of five.	5