Reflective activity - Ethics in Computing

The focus of conversations regarding unethical business practices has been Facebook's issues with data privacy. The company has frequently shown poor judgment when it comes to protecting its most important asset, consumer data. By gaining popularity on its main social media platform, the corporation has made a fortune but has failed to correctly and morally enforce its third-party limits or notify users of any data breaches. 2020 saw a privacy issue arise for the company as a consequence of the Illinois facial recognition technology litigation. Tag Suggestions, a Facebook photo-labelling function, was accused of collecting facial information from user photographs in contravention of the state's biometric privacy laws (StudyCorgi, 2022)

The guidelines outlined in Stahl et al. (2016), which include recommendations from ACM, the British Computing Society (BCS), and the Institution of Engineering and Technology, should be followed by researchers (IET). Otherwise, the individual, the team, and the business might be severely impacted by ethical problems. Researchers who are found to have committed misconduct lose money, have their research retracted and even run the danger of losing their jobs.

Academics claim that Facebook's 2014 experiment, in which it changed the social media feeds of over seven hundred thousand users to see whether it would affect their emotions, breached the moral principles of "informed consent." In a blog post, James Grimmelmann, a law professor at the University of Maryland, makes the point that, in accordance with US legislation governing human subjects research, "Facebook didn't provide users informed consent" to enable them to choose whether to participate in the study (Charles, 2014).

A researcher who found a misconduct issue should file a formal complaint about the conflicts of interest in one of the relevant agencies, such as UK Research and Innovation if the manufacturer only publishes the positive ones (UKRI, N.D.).

On the other side, subject to the provided facts and the agreed-upon policy, there is also the possibility of making the matter public knowledge. There were many Facebook employees apparently report the business unjustly makes exceptions to its policy against misleading news when dealing with specific publishers. According to the employee, Facebook favours conservative publishers in particular (Charles, 2014).

# References:

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