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Contractarianism

Introduction

The story "the evening and the morning and the night" depicts a fictional world where individuals with a rare disease called DGD mutilate themselves until eventual death. This narrative serves as a metaphor for the social isolation and mistreatment faced by those with diseases in our society. The protagonist, Lynn, experiences this issue firsthand, highlighting the need for empathy and understanding towards individuals suffering from unique conditions. Additionally, the discussion digs into GDPR, the General Data Protection Regulation introduced by the European Union, which aims to provide citizens with more control over their personal data. The regulation necessitates organizations to handle data responsibly, ensuring privacy and consent for individuals. Combining the themes of empathy, societal responsibility, and data protection, this analysis will argue that Contractarianism reveals the ethical importance for societies, particularly the United States, to prioritize empathy and understanding for individuals with diseases and uphold rigorous data protection regulations, similar to Europe, to create a more just and compassionate society.

Central Concepts from Elizabeth Buchanan

In Elizabeth Buchanan's commentary, she touches on several central concepts related to the ethics of big data research, and two key ideas that emerge are the ideas of the "data subject" and the "ethical considerations surrounding data mining methodologies." These concepts are instrumental in analyzing the case presented by Palmer, where the ethical tool of contractarianism will be applied to assess the actions taken.

Analysis of the Case Using Elizabeth Buchanan Concepts

This concept of the "data subject" is critical to Buchanan's thought. It refers to the individuals whose information is gathered, analyzed, and may be utilized in numerous manners. Buchanan emphasizes the need to take into account consent, self-rule, and protection from harm for those whose facts exist when addressing issues about their rights and duties in this significant data period. The example given by Palmer, in which online networking postings like tweets were utilized for investigation, is steady with this idea.

Additionally, the text highlights the moral dilemmas raised by analyzing data, stressing issues with unfair treatment, secrecy, and the possible adverse effects of applying these methods. This connects to the example in which experts recognized supporters of ISIS/ISIL on Twitter utilizing a Repeated Vertex Grouping and Identification (RVGI) model. The social agreement is an ethical instrument that can be used to evaluate if the choices made in this circumstance are consistent with the permission and equity standards.

Assessment Using Contractarianism

Palmer's case and the means used to reach a decision can reasonably be what individuals in a hypothetical arrangement would consent to. By applying this perspective of social agreements to examine the specific methods and ends achieved, we can decide if the approaches taken and results arrived at align with what sound-thinking people would accept in a joint understanding.

At first, one can assess how well IVCC finds those backing ISIS/ISIL on Twitter. If folks' freedoms and secrecy are shielded, they may permit such data searches for protection and counterattacks, as the contractarian idea says. However, it is essential to confirm that these

concepts stay within plainly stated moral boundaries and that protections from misuse or different treatment are in place.

Second, considering the critical issues of informed participation in research and agreement was essential. Agreement in any social contract is emphasized by those who agree with ideas of contract, like Palmer. Palmer's research uses Twitter users as people providing information, so it is important to make sure they understand the purpose of the study, the goals, and how their information will be used. Researchers must have protected the rights and privacy of people providing information, as this is consistent with the main ideas of agreement and justice found in the social contract.

In conclusion, Buchanan's concepts of the "data subject" and the ethical considerations surrounding data mining methodologies provide a valuable framework for analyzing Palmer's case. Applying the ethical tool of contractarianism, it becomes evident that while using data mining for identifying potential security threats like ISIS/ISIL supporters on Twitter may be justifiable, it must be done with a strong commitment to protecting the privacy and rights of data subjects. Ensuring informed consent and ethical boundaries are essential to have balance between security concerns and individual rights, aligning with principles that individuals would agree to in a social contract.

Central Concepts from Zimmer

Zimmer's article delves into various ethical concerns related to research conducted on social networking sites, particularly Facebook. One central concept explored is the shifting nature of privacy in online spaces. The traditional boundaries of privacy have become vague due to the ease of accessing personal information on platforms like Facebook. Another key concept is the idea of consent in the digital age. Zimmer questions the adequacy of consent when

individuals share information on social media platforms and whether researchers should rely solely on the public nature of the data as a basis for ethical research.

Analysis of the Case Using Zimmer's Concepts:

Applying Zimmer's concepts to the case of the "Tastes, Ties, and Time" project, it becomes apparent that the researchers underestimated the complexities of privacy and consent in online environments. The researchers in this case collected extensive personal information from Facebook profiles, assuming that because the data was publicly available, it was ethically justifiable to use it for research purposes. However, this approach overlooks the nuanced understanding of privacy in digital contexts.

Firstly, the concept of shifting privacy boundaries implies that just because information is public does not mean individuals have given up all rights to their privacy. In the case of Facebook, users might expect their information to be visible to their friends and connections, not necessarily to researchers conducting large-scale studies. The researchers failed to recognize this subtlety, leading to an invasion of privacy.

Secondly, the issue of consent arises when considering whether individuals on Facebook have willingly agreed to their data being used for academic research. While the data might be publicly accessible, users may not anticipate that their information could be obtained, analyzed, and publicly released without their explicit consent for research purposes. The lack of explicit consent in this case raises ethical concerns regarding the unauthorized secondary use of personal information.

Assessment Using Contractarianism

As an ethical example, contractarianism highlights the significance of human consent and mutual agreement. Contractarianism would contend that ethical research in the "Tastes, Ties, and Time" project must be based on the freely given consent of all partners.

The researchers did not stand by contractarianism's tenets in this instance. The people whose information was obtained did not accept or consent, even though the data was made publicly available. Even in digital settings, participants' liberty and consent should come first in ethical research. Facebook users should have been asked for their informed consent after being fully informed about the nature of the study and the intended uses of their data.

Finally, Zimmer's ideas about the need for informed consent and the eroding borders of privacy highlight the unethical aspects of the "Tastes, Ties, and Time" project. When contractarianism is used as an ethical tool, it becomes clear that the people whose data was collected, and the researchers did not reach an agreement. To conduct ethical research in the digital age, it is fundamental to recognize the ever changing nature of privacy and obtain explicit consent from individuals, even when dealing with publicly accessible data. Upholding the principles of autonomy and mutual agreement is fundamental to ensuring the ethical conduct of research in online social spaces.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the ethical analysis conducted on autonomous weapon systems emphasizes the complex moral landscape surrounding their use. Through an examination of various authors' arguments and the application of ethical reasoning tools, a nuanced perspective emerges. While advocates endorse advantages such as reduced human error and enhanced national security, my analysis reveals substantial ethical concerns. These include issues of accountability, civilian casualties, and the erosion of human dignity. When addressing objections, it is essential to

acknowledge the valid points made by both sides. While advocates emphasize the potential benefits, such as increased precision, critics raise alarms about the escalation of military capabilities, triggering global arms races, and disrupting the delicate balance of power between nations. Moreover, the deployment of autonomous weapons sets a dangerous precedent, necessitating a cautious approach. Despite the limitations of ethical frameworks in providing foolproof solutions, continuous international dialogue and collaboration among various stakeholders, including ethicists, policymakers, and technologists, are necessary. By openly addressing concerns, acknowledging limitations, and fostering meaningful discussions, society can strive to find the most ethical and responsible path forward in the realm of autonomous weaponry, ensuring the preservation of human rights and global stability in an increasingly complex technological landscape.

References

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