Things to Consider

CS109: Ethical Foundations of Computer Science
May 1, 2018
What did you learn?
We’ve Talked About A Lot of Stuff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individually</th>
<th>Collectively</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Now:</td>
<td>Societal:</td>
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<tr>
<td>academic integrity</td>
<td>profit</td>
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<td>judgmental behavior</td>
<td>intellectual property</td>
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<td>behavior in groups</td>
<td>privacy</td>
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<td>welcoming environments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Later:</td>
<td>Technological:</td>
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<td>behavior as an employee</td>
<td>privacy</td>
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<td>behavior when in authority</td>
<td>algorithmic bias</td>
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<td>gamification</td>
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All of this plays together

Algorithmic bias:
   encodes societal bias
   is exacerbated by a lack of diversity in software teams

Appropriate software use is determined by:
   society’s ideas on profit

A lack of diversity exacerbated by:
   judgmental behavior
   a lack of welcoming environments
Incorporating Ethical Behavior

How do you plan to incorporate ethical decision making?
What sort of course environment encourages ethical behavior?
What sort of corporate environment encourages ethical behavior?

What situations make it hard to act ethically?
What sorts of environments allow ethically questionable behavior?

What is the role of a computer scientist in determining:
ethical behavior for software?
ethical behavior for a company?
if regulation for technology is appropriate or necessary?
iClicker Question

Computer Scientists have:

a) No responsibility to ensure ethical behavior
b) Some responsibility to protect others through ethical behavior
c) Considerable responsibility to protect others through ethical behavior
d) All the responsibility to protect others through ethical behavior
Pitfalls

- Moral equilibrium
- Moral licensing
- Overconfidence bias
- Ignoring the abstract in favor of the tangible
- Ethical fading (rationalizations!)
- Incrementalism (slippery slopes!)
- Conformity bias
- Blindly obeying authority
- Self-serving bias
- Framing
Goals

• Moral imagination
• Ethical leadership
  • Consider many sides and approaches to decision
  • Reduce harm to others: physical, emotional, financial, or reputational
• Guide reason with empathy and empathy with reason
  • Consider the circumstances in which others act
• Moral un-muteness
  • Speak up!
Announcements

• Group member evaluations will be posted soon
  • These are required
• Grades will be coming out over the next week or so

• Thank you!