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Reading of the week What is computer ethics?

Briefly note down your responses to the answers, which can be in paragraphs or bullet points. But be prepared to elaborate and share them with the class.

What are the key ideas of the paper? Or what key messages are presented by the author(s)?

- Computer ethics is the study of social impact of computational digital devices, it also includes the creation of policies for such use of technology.
- Computer ethics aims to be dynamic and find connections between facts and ideas in order to better develop policies around ever changing digital devices and technology.
- Computer ethics applies to people and the individual within society.
- Old values interject with new technology, for example intellectual property laws were initially developed for some types of physical property as opposed to some types of digital property.
- It seems to question most aspects about technology in order to conceptualise facts and then relate them more dynamically.
- To distinguish between various types of technology in order to better understand computer ethics and how such policies are created therein.

What evidence or method, if any, is used to support the main argument of the paper?

There does not seem to be any references to any sources used to construct this essay, it's origin was that it was written by James H. Moor on behalf of Dartmouth college. I believe this is because he used mainly stories which sounded like they are from the news / media in order to get across his points on a proposed definition, hence the lack of technological descriptions on some parts, however these were not referenced anywhere in the essay. Overall I can only speculate where the vast majority of stories came from in this essay, hence the method he used was to describe situations and stories where technology has in the past, is currently or will in the future play a major role to the individual or society most importantly staying on the topic of computer ethics, he used ideas and possible facts to better put across his proposed definition.

Do you agree or disagree with what is being said? Why? Or what are your comments on the argument presented by the author(s).

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- I believe he was a bit broad and was not specific enough about the use of words describing technology and digital devices I believe he would of been more suited to cover the many broad terms described throughout.
- Not clear enough on the term of revolutionary, kept hinting around the subject rather than making a factual distinction, did not go into enough detail about the technology involved in such revolutions.
- I agreed with him trying to keep the essay relevant to computer ethics, hence the lack of technological descriptions I kept finding in most parts.
- I disagreed with the sentence "We are gradually entering the second stage, the permeation stage, in which computer technology will become an integral part of institutions throughout our society." I think that is too simplistic in the context that it only talking about institutions where the individual relationship between individual (e.g. I believe digital devices are actually becoming more ubiquitous and powerful.) is becoming a lot stronger over time and have a much more obvious impact and transition for everyone. They did go onto say I "think that in the coming decades many human activities and social institutions will be transformed" but again I believe this was to broad and not specific enough.
- I found overall the paper was limited in technological descriptions hence somewhat bias towards developing any grounding on what computer ethics is and especially what it is used for, for example developing policies and such. It did not go into enough detail to better explain certain points.

How can you relate points made by the author(s) to reality? Any examples?

I can relate to the points made by the author through this paper through my own use of technology, as someone who has grew up in the 80's / 90's / 00's I have found technology having a greater impact on my life over time, becoming more ubiquitous and embedded into it in various ways. An example would be CCTV, when I was a lot younger there were literally no CCTV cameras in my area that I grew up in, over time as crime became an issue quite a few CCTV cameras were mounted all around the area to reduce crime, with little to no ethical consideration for it's residents, however today it seems to have reduced crime drastically whilst at the same time invading people's privacy.

The above relates to points in the paper as seeing how technology can not only become revolutionary to somewhat an unethical degree, sometimes moving so quickly and un-noticed that the general public don't have time to ethically consider its implications whether they be positive, negative or both.