

Morals and Ethics in Networks and the Internet

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Agenda

- Definition of Ethics – “Behavior based on anticipated cooperative benefits.” [1]
- Network Neutrality [3]
 - Keeping corporations from benefiting themselves instead of their customers
- “The Surveillance Society” [2][GDPR 7]
 - Personal privacy, personal and societal security
- Internet of Things/Sensors everywhere. [4]
 - Visual, aural, location, habits, etc.
- Internet Piracy and copyright laws [1]
- Digital Divide [5] – impact on those economically disadvantaged
- Internet porn – exploitation

Resources:

1. <https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/ethics-and-the-internet/>
2. <https://nation.time.com/2013/08/01/the-surveillance-society/>
3. <https://www.wired.com/story/guide-net-neutrality/>
4. <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/internet-of-things-what-is-explained-iot>
5. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/07/digital-divide-persists-even-as-lower-income-americans-make-gains-in-tech-adoption/>
6. https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/comic-riffs/post/nobody-knows-youre-a-dog-as-iconic-internet-cartoon-turns-20-creator-peter-steiner-knows-the-joke-rings-as-relevant-as-ever/2013/07/31/73372600-f98d-11e2-8e84-c56731a202fb_blog.html
7. <https://gdpr-info.eu/art-5-gdpr/>
8. <https://venturebeat.com/2020/02/17/eus-new-ai-rules-will-focus-on-ethics-and-transparency/>
9. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/morris-worm-30-years-since-first-major-attack-on-internet-110218>

Internet Comics...



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

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[6] https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/comic-riffs/post/nobody-knows-youre-a-dog-as-iconic-internet-cartoon-turns-20-creator-peter-steiner-knows-the-joke-rings-as-relevant-as-ever/2013/07/31/73372600-f98d-11e2-8e84-c56731a202fb_blog.html

The Networks – why are networks enablers?

- The Internet, connecting virtually everyone – worldwide
 - Different from telephone and all previous technologies
 - Search functions created many new business models – loss of privacy too
- No centralized control – lack of censorship
 - The robustness of the Internet technologies facilitated this model
 - Peer to peer
 - Client-Server
- The speed at which information travels – one foot per nanosecond
 - Replication of content aids in speed of dissemination – Content Distribution Networks (CDN)
- Ability to be anonymous and impersonate others [6]
 - Lack of solid security permits anonymity to protect protesters
 - Lack of solid security permits anonymity which promotes bullying and harassment.
- Amplification of human character both good and bad

Networking has enabled much of our current societal model

- News online – democracy support, “Arab Spring” but Russian interference in the 2016 election?
- Online shopping with delivery to your door – but local small businesses suffer
- Facebook – ability to keep up with many “friends” and acquaintances – while not interacting personally with “real people”
- Online government – data.gov, online voting?, - security and privacy again...
- Online gaming – internationalized competition
- Internet dating and matchmaking

Problems

- The Internet was not designed to be secure, it was designed to be robust in the presence of failures. Security left as an afterthought –
 - An eye opening event: “Morris Worm” in 1988 [9]
- Current laws did not take into consideration the salient features of the Internet (speed, scope, anonymity)
- Policy always lags technology – copyright law, telecom law, personal privacy and security, all lag on the policy front

Network Neutrality

