

CSC311: Embedded Ethics

Post-Module Homework

Please write a response (minimum 200 words) to one of the following prompts:

1. In [“Beyond Engagement: Aligning Algorithmic Recommendations With Prosocial Goals”](#), Jonathan Stray suggests that recommender systems might be ethically improved by adopting the following changes:

- (a) shifting from engagement metrics to ‘well-being metrics’,
- (b) giving users greater control over their feeds,
- (c) paying users for better data.

Pick one of these changes. Do you think the intended purpose of this change is to (i) help recommend items that a user prefers, or (ii) achieve some other ethical purpose (if so, say what it is)? Is it likely to succeed in that purpose?

2. In your view, what is a “meaningful interaction” on a social media platform? Propose a change to Facebook’s recommender system that would increase the number of meaningful interactions. Do you think your proposed change would lead to any other consequences, apart from promoting meaningful interactions?

Your assignment will be graded in the following way:

Pass (1/1): The assignment meets the required word count in a non-repetitive way, makes a reasonable attempt to use the concept of manipulation, and gives a coherent argument for a position.

Fail (0/1): The assignment is incomplete; it either does not meet the required word count, or is significantly off topic, does not make a reasonable attempt to use the concept of manipulation, or is not comprehensible.