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Does all knowledge impose ethical obligations on those who know it?

This exploration will explore ethical obligations within the frameworks of technology to show that knowledge has the power to manipulate individuals and events negatively, and it is why there should be moral boundaries.

Object 1: Drone



<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/light/topics/drones>

After reflecting on the role of ethics in knowledge and technology, the first object that I find applicable is a drone. My dad uses a drone at home to cover different types of footage for commercial and personal purposes. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or drones, are aircraft

without a human pilot, flight crew, or passengers. When in the air, there is always a chance that drones will collide with other aircraft, buildings, and electrical lines. They can also collide with animals. Thus, they endanger property and human life (Wang et al. 7). Drones are mainly fixed with cameras and audio features that allow pilots to collect footage without detection. These features pose a huge privacy threat. The cameras and video cameras on drones enable their owners to capture or take images of people without their permission. A few instances of people using drones to spy on others have occurred (Wang et al. 7). Thus, drones show how knowledge comes with certain moral or ethical responsibilities. When we possess knowledge, we must use it sustainably or in a way that does not harm others. When we possess knowledge, we have a competitive advantage, especially over those who do not possess it. Therefore, we have the power to use take advantage of their knowledge gap by invading their privacy or destroying their property. It is the reason why flying a drone requires licenses from government agencies and relevant authorities. Licensing is a way of recognizing the ethics of knowledge because of how it leads to negative outcomes in society.

Object 2: Trump's Tweet



The other image that shows the ethical responsibility that comes with knowing is Trump's Tweet. Trump's tweet violated Twitter's ethical code. Twitter's ethics code prevents wrongdoing and encourages honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior. It also encourages obedience to applicable laws and regulations, fiscal accountability, and direct internal reporting of infractions. After the tweet, Trump's account would be suspended until 12 hours after he removed it and two other tweets (Karapostoli). Twitter said that the tweet fueled his unfounded allegations that the election was rigged. Trump was promoting harmful falsehoods that threatened the democracy of Americans, especially because of the way he encouraged false claims about the election. His anti-democratic rhetoric had been increased on social media, and it was against Twitter's policy (Karapostoli). This order of events shows how we must acknowledge ethical boundaries of knowledge. Trump has been credited with extensive knowledge of using social media. He used Twitter to reach out to his fans before the election to communicate important issues during his presidency. However, during the 2020 general election, he used his skills for negative roles. He used to incite his supporters, and it caused an Insurrection in the Capital. These events led to his lifetime ban on Twitter even though he was still the sitting president. This phenomenon confirms

the argument that individuals who possess knowledge or certain skills should use them with moral boundaries. If there are no moral considerations, we are likely to have presidents using social media platforms to incite their followers because they are aware of the effectiveness of these platforms. Twitter banned Trump because it recognized the need to affirm that there should be ethical concerns in the pursuit and application of knowledge to ensure that it is used in a way that does not harm others. It imposed ethical obligations on Trump, especially because of the weight of his office.

Object 3: Television



https://www.theplasmacentre.com/tv-stands-and-av-racks/tv-stands/mda-designs-sirius-1200-black.html?ds_sbp=1

The television also highlights how ethical obligations are imposed on people. My favorite program on television is the news. I like watching the news so that I can stay informed about

many things. News coverage covers topics such as objectivity, bias, privacy, and how they relate to news reporting. For instance, when I watch CNN, the reporter reveals her sources and includes other details such as quotes, eyewitness accounts, plus video and audio recordings. This strategy is intended to ensure objectivity. In this case, it is the journalist's responsibility to protect the institution's integrity by always avoiding bias. Thus, when you possess the knowledge of journalism, you are automatically required to maintain truth and impartiality. In addition, stereotyping, obscenity, freedom of expression, commercial techniques and marketing strategies like product placement, and legal problems like defamation are also included in television operations. There are significant moral questions raised by the promotion of pro-social values and actions that television promotes (Arda and Zuhail 100). For instance, television has been associated with promoting negative body stereotypes. Many corporates place advertisements on television showing perfect women. They entice women that they can achieve "perfect bodies" by consuming their products like slimming pills. The corporates conduct extensive research on the TV audience to ensure they reach a wide audience. Many sociologists have called out these strategies because of their negative impact on teenagers. Many teenagers are consuming the knowledge about the body as the truth about biological processes and body weight plus shape. They use the knowledge to engage in anorexic behavior, reflecting how knowledge can be applied for negative reasons. In every field, including technology, we need to review how we use our knowledge because it can have negative implications for others.

In conclusion, the relationship between knowledge and technology shows the need to have ethical boundaries in pursuing and applying knowledge. Technology creates many

opportunities to apply knowledge negatively, which means that possessing knowledge is not a license to use without ethical or moral considerations.

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