Professional Ethics in the Field of Artificial Intelligence

Guidelines for World and Self Responsibility

1

We are humans, not machines

What is your concept of a human being?
Be aware that you also translate it into code and digital products.

2

Humanity is the measure of digital development

Does your algorithm or digital product promote or inhibit trust and human interaction? Acting according to this humanistic imperative promotes the life chances of as many people as possible.

3

Your personal actions have an ethical dimension

Where can you discover values in your own actions? Be aware that values shape your behavior. Even when you are doing research or working for an organization or a company.

4

Cultivate a sense of responsibility

How might your work and developments in machine learning improve people's lives? What might be the negative consequences? Your actions impact society and thus entail responsibility.

5

Lack of knowledge is a limit, but also a valuable resource

How often are you confronted with not knowing something? Try to actively distinguish between knowing and not knowing in order to foster exchange with other areas of expertise. Learn that your lack of knowledge can be a valuable resource as it enables you to ask key questions.

6

Not everything that is possible is also useful

How many people have as much power to shape reality as you do? Develop a sense of digital fairness. Products with AI must be designed and used responsibly. The limits of their use should be communicated and controlled.

7

Invest into your ability to speak and act ethically

On what ethical issues in AI could you publicly take a stand? Strengthen your ethical sensitivity and communication skills, especially with regard to the short- and long-term consequences of new technologies.

8

We are all ambassadors for humanity

Where do human rights come into play in your profession? It is helpful if you use values such as the Global Ethic Values for clarification: truthfulness, justice, non-violence, partnership and ecological responsibility.

9

We can all actively stand up for digital fairness

Where have you felt upset about abuse, disinformation, injustice, or an unfair digital practice? Consider whether you can and want to bear the consequences of any unethical practices. Stand up for fairness as much as you can.

10

Dialogue is crucial

How does what you say or don't say and how you say it make a difference? Credibility and the ability to engage in dialogue are the foundation for sustainable cooperation. Engage in (critical) dialog with colleagues and others. Harnessing the potential of new technologies for the benefit of as many as possible requires effort and is a task for all of us together.

Afterthought:

The term "artificial intelligence" may be interpreted in different ways, but we use it here because the term is well established.
These guidelines for a professional ethos in the field of AI are in constant development. They thrive on constructive participation.

JOIN IN!

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