OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 11

Special Issue: 1

Month: June

Year: 2024

P-ISSN: 2321-788X

E-ISSN: 2582-0397

Received: 30.05.2024

Accepted: 06.06.2024

Published: 19.06.2024

Citation:
Kantha, T., Sahoo, D., Rout, D., & Mishra, S. J. (2024). Ethics in the Digital Era: Technology's Role in Shaping Society. *Shanlax International Journal of Arts, Science and Humanities,* 11(S1), 8–18.

DOI:
https://doi.org/10.34293/sijash.v11iS1-June.7794

Ethics in the Digital Era: Technology's Role in Shaping Society

Tejaswini Kantha
Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, India

Prof. Debabrata Sahoo
Lecturer in Management, DAV School of Business Management Bhubaneswar, India

Prof. Debasish Rout & Dr. Somabhusana Janakiballav Mishra
Assistant Professor, Amity Global Business School, Bhubaneswar, India

Abstract
The rapid advancement of technology has profoundly transformed society, bringing about unprecedented benefits and challenges. This paper examines the ethical implications of technology, focusing on the multifaceted impact on privacy, security, equity, and human autonomy. As technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and the Internet of Things (IoT) become increasingly integrated into daily life, concerns about data privacy and surveillance intensify. The potential for misuse of personal information by corporations and governments raises critical ethical questions regarding consent and transparency.
Moreover, the digital divide highlights issues of equity and access, as technological advancements often exacerbate existing social inequalities. The ethical responsibility of ensuring that technology benefits all segments of society, rather than just a privileged few, is paramount. Additionally, the rise of autonomous systems and AI challenges traditional notions of human agency and accountability, prompting debates about the moral and legal responsibilities of developers and users.
This paper explores these ethical dimensions through a comprehensive review of current literature and case studies, aiming to provide a balanced perspective on how society can navigate the complex ethical landscape of technology. Ultimately, fostering an ethical framework for technological development and deployment is crucial for ensuring that technological progress contributes to the common good.
Keywords: AI Ethics, Digital Divide, Societal Impact, Technological Progress, Privacy Concerns.

Introduction

The advent of the digital era has heralded unprecedented changes across various domains of society, fundamentally altering how we communicate, conduct business, access information, and even perceive the world. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, and the Internet of Things (IoT) have not only enhanced efficiencies and created new opportunities but have also introduced a myriad of ethical challenges. As these technologies continue to integrate into everyday life, their implications on privacy, security, equity, and human autonomy become increasingly complex and pressing. This article delves into the ethical dimensions of technology in the digital era, examining its profound role in shaping contemporary society.

The Ethical Landscape of Privacy and Surveillance

One of the foremost ethical concerns in the digital era is the issue of privacy. The pervasive nature of data collection in the age of big data and IoT has led to significant apprehensions about surveillance and the commodification of personal information. Shoshana Zuboff's concept of "surveillance capitalism" articulates how personal data has become a valuable commodity, often harvested without individuals' informed consent. This mass data collection, while driving innovations and personalized services, raises critical ethical questions regarding the right to privacy and the potential misuse of information by corporations and governments. The aggregation of personal data can lead to detailed and intrusive profiles of individuals, as highlighted by Daniel Solove, potentially resulting in discriminatory practices and loss of individual autonomy.

AI and Autonomous Systems: Accountability and Bias

The integration of AI and autonomous systems into various sectors, from healthcare to criminal justice, introduces significant ethical challenges related to accountability and bias. The "black box" nature of AI decision-making processes, where the rationale behind decisions is not transparent, complicates issues of accountability and raises concerns about the fairness of these systems. Scholars like Nick Bostrom and Eliezer Yudkowsky have discussed the moral responsibilities of developers and users in ensuring that AI systems are safe and aligned with human values. Cathy O'Neil's exploration of biased algorithms further underscores how AI can perpetuate and exacerbate existing social inequalities, necessitating robust ethical guidelines to ensure fairness and justice in automated systems.

The Digital Divide and Equity

The digital divide remains a salient ethical issue, with technological advancements often benefiting a privileged few while marginalizing others. Disparities in access to technology can deepen existing social and economic inequalities, as discussed by Mark Warschauer. Ensuring equitable access to digital technologies is critical for fostering inclusive growth and development. Policy interventions and ethical considerations must prioritize bridging this digital divide, ensuring that all segments of society can benefit from technological progress. This approach is essential not only for social justice but also for leveraging the full potential of digital innovations to drive societal advancement.

Human Autonomy and Ethical Responsibility

The omnipresence of digital devices and platforms has profound implications for human autonomy and interpersonal relationships. Sherry Turkle's research on the impact of digital technologies on human behavior highlights concerns about the erosion of face-to-face interactions and the changing nature of self-identity. Ethical responsibility in the digital era entails designing and using technologies that enhance, rather than undermine, human autonomy and well-being. Luciano Floridi's work on digital ethics advocates for a principled approach to technology development, emphasizing the need to align technological advancements with human values and societal well-being.

Developing Ethical Frameworks

Addressing the ethical challenges posed by digital technologies requires robust ethical frameworks that guide their development and deployment. Floridi and Taddeo propose comprehensive digital ethics principles, including transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, to ensure that technological progress aligns with societal values. Implementing these ethical guidelines can help mitigate potential harms and foster trust in technology. Such frameworks are crucial for navigating the ethical complexities of the digital era and ensuring that technology serves the common good.

Literature Review

Privacy and Surveillance

One of the most pressing ethical concerns in the digital era is the issue of privacy. The proliferation of data-driven technologies, such as big data analytics and the Internet of Things (IoT), has led to an exponential increase in data collection. According to Zuboff (2019), the rise of "surveillance capitalism" has transformed personal data into a commodity, often without individuals' informed consent. This extensive data collection raises significant ethical questions about the right to privacy and the potential for abuse by both corporations and governments. As Solove (2006) points out, the aggregation of seemingly innocuous data can lead to detailed profiles of individuals, potentially used for discriminatory practices or intrusive surveillance.

AI and Autonomous Systems

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and autonomous systems have introduced new ethical challenges related to accountability and decision-making. Bostrom and Yudkowsky (2014) highlight the moral responsibility associated with developing and deploying AI, particularly in critical sectors such as healthcare, finance, and criminal justice. The opacity of AI decision-making processes, often referred to as the "black box" problem, complicates accountability and transparency. O'Neil (2016) emphasizes that biased algorithms can perpetuate and even exacerbate existing social inequalities, raising questions about fairness and justice in automated systems.

Equity and Access

The digital divide remains a significant ethical issue, as technological advancements often benefit a privileged few while leaving others behind. Warschauer (2004) discusses how disparities in access to technology can exacerbate social and economic inequalities. Ensuring equitable access to digital technologies is not only a matter of fairness but also crucial for fostering inclusive growth and development. As Selwyn (2004) argues, policymakers and technologists have an ethical obligation to bridge this divide and create opportunities for all segments of society to benefit from technological advancements.

Human Autonomy and Ethical Responsibility

The integration of technology into daily life has profound implications for human autonomy. Turkle (2011) explores how reliance on digital devices and social media affects our sense of self and interpersonal relationships. The ethical responsibility of ensuring that technology enhances rather than diminishes human autonomy is paramount. Floridi (2013) introduces the concept of "digital ethics," which advocates for the responsible design and use of technology to support human values and well-being.

Ethical Frameworks for Technological Development

Given these ethical challenges, it is essential to develop robust ethical frameworks to guide technological development and deployment. Floridi and Taddeo (2016) propose a comprehensive approach to digital ethics that encompasses principles such as transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. These frameworks can help ensure that technological progress aligns with societal values and promotes the common good. Implementing ethical guidelines and regulations, as suggested by Moor (2006), can mitigate potential harms and foster trust in technology.

Our lives have become easier, more productive, and more connected as a result of innovations and breakthroughs in a world influenced by progress and innovation. These developments have improved civilization in many ways, including better communication, simpler information access,

more productivity, and better healthcare. Various forces have influenced and fuelled those growth processes, one of the most recognised being technology. (The Times of India, (2023))Technology's most significant contribution to humanity is its unmatched capacity to break through challenges, transform societies, and improve the human condition. From the printing press sparking intellectual revolutions to the internet establishing a global community, technology has been the backbone of development, liberalising access to information and bridging communication gapsand transforming the medical field. (University of California Press, (2020))

Despite this, technology also poses the risk of narrowing job prospects and widening the economicdivide.

But while the future for civilization seems promising in the context of emerging technologies, it is crucial to remember the possible risks they carry. Cyberbullying, privacy invasion, and technological dependency are just a few of the negative affects it has on society.(Ethics & AI: A Systematic Review on Ethical Concerns and Related Strategies for Designing with AI in Healthcare, (2023)) Automation or artificial intelligence may significantly reduce the extent to which humans lose control over the world around them.(Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humans, Pew Research Center, (2018))

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that studies moral judgement.(Utilitarianism(1863))It is a branch of science that looks at what is right or wrong. There is a direct connection between morality and ethics. Morality, compared to the contrary, originates from the outside, such as society, whereas ethics are a set of internal rules, moral judgment's character.(Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (1785)),

Conversely, morality and ethics share a significant connection but are distinct concepts despite sharing similar characteristics.(Modern Moral Philosophy, (1958)) However, morality stands for rules that originate from the outside, or from society, but ethics is a set of norms that originate from within; they are personal norms.(The Philosophy of Moral Development (1981)).

Technology and science are therefore not immune from ethics. They are similar in nature and may have implications for morality.

Because the possible benefits and drawbacks of digital technologies might differ across stakeholders and based on the environment in which they are used, there is always conflict when it comes to ethics and these technologies. (Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor, (2018)).

It is crucial to comprehend the function of ethics in this digital age because the development of technology can potentially lead to manipulation of social norms.(The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power, (2019))

We have covered a number of emerging technological topics in this paper that may pose a risk to the existence of social ethics.

Some Topics of Discussion that are Covered Include

1. Data security and privacy
2. The impact of AI algorithms on social inequality
3. Human oversight and automation
4. Effects on the environment
5. misuse deception
6. policy
7. transparency between producers and consumers privacy and data protection

Data Security and Privacy

Technology can be exploited for bad purposes or have negative side effects. (The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, (2019)). Notable examples include the Cambridge Analytica scandal, in which the personal information of 50 million Facebook users was obtained by the company without the consent of the users, and profiles were subsequently collected, looked at, and targeted for political purposes; and worries about facial recognition due to possible (race) bias in algorithms and targeted applications of the technology that could be prejudiced against specific racial groups. (The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, (2019)).

It is critical to acknowledge that some business models may use technology in ways that are unethical in terms of both design and use.

Businesses might collect and evaluate data, for instance, to personalise their goods or services for customers. The algorithms used for recommendation systems, homepage content curation, and video queuing on social media and video sharing platforms (VSPs) have come under attention for allegedly generating political echo chambers or filter bubbles.(Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy, (2018)). These algorithms are based on user profile data, network usage, and past conduct. Although the purpose of these features was to keep users on the site, it's possible that they could unintentionally cause users to only see information that fits a certain narrative.(Network Propaganda: Manipulation, Disinformation, and Radicalization in American Politics, (2018))

The privacy of citizens is likewise threatened by technology. The privacy of communications and of individuals is violated by technology. The progress of technology has made it incredibly simple to track individuals and intrude into their lives by disclosing important details about them. Individuals also have less control over the information that is available to third parties.(Nothing to Hide: The False Trade-off between Privacy and Security, (2011)),

Every time someone visits a website, it gathers a lot of personally identifying information about them, like the browser type, IP address, time zone, etc. Websites that include viruses have the ability to gather even more private data, including passwords, credit card numbers, emails, bank statements, and much more. There is an ethical problem because this violates citizens' privacy. (Configuring the Networked Self: Law, Code, and the Play of Everyday Practice, (2012))

The Impact of AI Algorithms on Social Inequality

Algorithmic prejudice has far-reaching and complex effects on human rights. AI systems that contain discriminatory biases unintentionally encourage gender, racial, and socioeconomic inequality, endangering people's rights to equality and freedom from discrimination. This has far-reaching effects, influencing judicial sentencing and policing procedures in addition to compromising equitable access to jobs and other necessities.(Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code, (2019))

When a computer system boosts the biases present in its training data or reflects the implicit beliefs or preconceptions of its human designers, this is known as algorithmic bias.(Excavating AI: The Politics of Images in Machine Learning Training Sets, (2019))

AI systems employed in the recruiting process, for instance, frequently rely on historical data that might represent prior biassed hiring practices. The status quo is maintained when such data feeds machine learning algorithms, which disadvantages minority job candidates and feeds the cycle of occupational discrimination (Gender Shades, (2018)).Also,because Amazon's AI algorithm to hire was trained on historical business hiring data for computer engineers, it hires more men, and they make a vast majority of computer engineers in Amazon's internet firm being biased towards women.(Reuters,(2018))

However, in recent years, the obvious unfairness of algorithmic technologies (including visibly racist or sexist algorithmic outputs) has generated significant conceptual challenges for AI system engineers, for which they were ill-prepared and unskilled (Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism, (2018)). Though there is disagreement about what constitutes an unbiased or fair algorithm and if it can even be achieved, solutions have been created to reduce bias and promote fairness (Green & Hu, 2018; Silberg & Manyika, 2019).

Although many disparities are thought to be generally harmful or undesirable, opinions on what constitutes a desirable society are significantly less united, and the reluctance of many technologists to adopt a political stance has further restricted the scope of this conversation. (Beyond the Big Data Buzz: Ethical and Societal Implications for Data Science)

For example, Google has justified offensive search results as true depictions of the ground truth (Gibbs, (2016)). When Google has changed search algorithms to produce racist and sexist results, it has frequently done so covertly in response to pressure from outside interests, media attention on particular examples, or internal concerns (Noble, 2018).

Human Oversight and Automation

The term "human oversight" describes how human actors are involved in the design, implementation, and use of Al systems to guarantee that human autonomy, dignity, and values are respected.(Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think, (2013))

Depending on the Al system's context and goal, human oversight can take on a variety of shapes and sizes. Human oversight, for instance, can refer to human-in-the-loop (HITL), where a person can intervene and change how an Al system operates; human-on-the-loop (HOTL), where a person can watch over and interrupt an Al system; or human-in-command (HIC), where a person has the final say and control over an Al system. (Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach, (4th edition, 2020))

Machine learning transparency is made possible by human oversight: By guaranteeing that people have access to pertinent details regarding the operation and decision-making processes of an Al system, human oversight can promote transparency in machine learning. (Rebooting AI: Building Artificial Intelligence We Can Trust, (2019))

Human oversight, for instance, can guarantee that an Al system gives clear and understandable information about its intended use, anticipated performance, constraints, uncertainties, and hazards. When decisions made by an Al system impact people's rights or interests, human oversight can also guarantee that the system gives justifications and considerations for its choices. Transparency in machine learning makes human monitoring feasible.(The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence: Forecasting, Prevention, and Mitigation, (2018)

AI systems use preset algorithms to make decisions after processing massive amounts of data. Even though AI algorithms are quite effective, they are unable to evaluate and prioritise ethical issues.(Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, (2018))However, people have the moral sense to make sure AI decisions are in line with society. For the purpose of preventing prejudice, discrimination, and unethical activity, humans can set boundaries, develop ethical standards, and evaluate AI outputs. Humans can minimise the risks associated with uncontrolled automation while maximising AI's potential for good influence by practicing ethical decision-making. (Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right from Wrong, (2015))

Algorithms, data analysis, and patterns are the foundation of AI systems. But they frequently find it difficult to adjust to changing circumstances or comprehend the complex dynamics of interpersonal relationships, which increases the likelihood that immoral outcomes may result. (Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI" by the High-Level Expert Group on AI, (2019))

In particular, Microsoft's 2016 Twitter chatbot Tay demonstrates a lack of human control in AI systems. Tay was created to interact with users on Twitter and gather insights from those exchanges. However, Tay started posting extremely abusive and indecent tweets a few hours after it launched. (The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence: Forecasting, Prevention, and Mitigation,(2018))

Even if artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are developing at a rate not witnessed before, human control is still crucial. Humans contribute moral judgement, responsibility, flexibility, and a commitment to lifelong learning. (Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for Affecting Society, (2020)). Through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies with human skills, it is possible to fully use technology while reducing risks and guaranteeing a sustainable future.

Effects on the Environment

It is undeniable that technology has been used as a tool for human exploitation to destroy our environment, yet not all environmentalists agree that technology should be eliminated. While many people believe that technology is more of a curse than a blessing, a deeper understanding holds that technology by itself is not harmful—rather, it is human misuse of it that causes harm.(Technology and Society: Building our Sociotechnical Future,(2009))

Because of this, Wolff (2014) argues in favour of a cautious approach to regulating new technologies that carry unknown risks. He points out that in the past, there was plenty of hype over the benefits of new technologies, but these were greatly outweighed by unintended consequences. Two of his primary examples are the use of asbestos-containing materials in fireproof buildings, which resulted in expensive removal and human casualties, and the use of chlorofluorocarbons in refrigerants, which seriously damaged the ozone layer (S27). (Wolff, (2014))

The enormous ecological harm caused by e-waste (electronic garbage) is a prominent example of how technology negatively affects the environment. Hazardous substances including lead, mercury, and cadmium are frequently found in e-waste, which is the term used to describe abandoned electronic devices like computers, cell phones, and batteries. (E-waste: Environmental Problems and Current Management, (2016)). When these items are disposed of improperly, harmful compounds may leak into the groundwater, soil, or atmosphere, endangering human health and the environment. In addition, the extraction of rare earth elements and gold—precious resources required for electronics—contributes to ecosystem degradation, water pollution, and energy use. Informal recycling procedures contaminate the environment and expose workers to hazardous materials in many developing nations.(Environmental and health impacts of informal e-waste recycling, (2018))Additionally, the creation, utilisation, and elimination of electronic gadgets contribute to the release of greenhouse gases.

The globe produced a record 53.6 million metric tonnes of e-waste in 2019, and this number is predicted to rise due to the high rate of technological innovation (Global E-waste Monitor 2020). In order to overcome these obstacles, sustainable consumer behaviour, efficient e-waste management regulations, better recycling technology, and responsible manufacturing are needed. (Greening electronics: Trends in sustainable product design and recycling, (2018))

Since the safety of genetically modified foods has been questioned, there are also ethical concerns in the health sector. Because these crops can develop more quickly and resist extreme environmental conditions, they have been commercialised. But their safety is questionable, as some have been shown to mutilate DNA and cause the body to produce carcinogens (Argandoña, 2004).

When technology is used properly, its benefits can potentially outweigh its drawbacks, saving the environment.

Technology has the potential to be neutral in terms of values, and when used properly, it can benefit the environment.

Misuse Deception

Two words can best describe the major issue surrounding technological misuse: culture and education. The hundreds of services that technology provides mean that there are numerous ways to lose time and damage others. Even if they are aware that it is bad, some nonetheless capitalise on their time to hurt other people.(Technological Revolutions and Financial Capital: The Dynamics of Bubbles and Golden Ages, (2002))For instance, rather than working towards bettering themselves, people produce weapons to kill others. As a tool, technology does not pose a threat to society; rather, it is society's misuse of it that does. Humans employ technology that poses a threat to civilization; technology users, not the technology itself, are to blame.(Technology, Crime and Justice: The Question Concerning Technomia, (2014))

Teachers and students can now interact over thousands of kilometres thanks to technology improvements. Teachers can also provide homework that pupils can turn in from a distance. Technology has made it possible to learn globally in this way. Nevertheless, the arrangement in question—where personal data is collected-raises ethical questions. Additionally, students who use the internet to look out information for their classes run the risk of encountering cyber predators who try to trick them into being victims of sexual assault or kidnapping.(Technological Revolution and Financial Capital, (2002)).

Biotechnology is one example, which was previously discussed. Another great example is the privacy and confidentiality of medical information. Data tampering to store information for easy retrieval leads to the issue of unauthorised access to medical information. Many medical professionals have also been known to sell this medical data to other parties, such as pharmaceutical companies, in order to have a separate source of revenue. Without the patient's consent, they behave in this way (Lowenthal, 1988). Another ethical conundrum facing the health sector is the psychological impact and stigmatisation brought about by technological breakthroughs. (Patient Privacy and Confidentiality in the Erra of Big Data, (2016)).

Unauthorised access to medical records may cause stigmatisation of the patient, which may hinder their ability to advance psychologically (Deshpande, Joseph, & Prasad, 2006).

President Droupadi Murmu emphasised the value of technology for kids' academic and personal growth but issued a warning against its abuse, as seen in the cases of financial fraud and deepfakes.

Social media is a useful tool for raising awareness and facilitating communication, but it is sometimes abused to propagate rumours. (Children's rights in the Digital age:A download from children around the world by UNICEF, (2014))A bad step can thereby jeopardise your future, hence it is imperative that you be cautious and refrain from such activities, Ms. Murmu expressed after presenting the national children's awards, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, today.

Policy

Organisations and professions should thus create clear internal rules, procedures, standards, and best practices that are especially tailored to their unique activities and difficulties because no one code of technology ethics can fit all situations and practitioners. (Artificial Intelligence and Ethics (2009))

Policies, which provide norms and guidelines that control behaviour and decision-making, are essential to guaranteeing ethical practices in technology. They ensure adherence to legal and regulatory obligations, establish clear expectations for appropriate behaviour, and encourage openness in data collecting and algorithmic procedures. Policies based on ethics protect user privacy, reduce technological bias, and hold people and organisations responsible for their actions. They also promote security, inclusion, responsible innovation, and moral decision-making in challenging circumstances. (Ethics, Law and Policy in biobanking (2015).

Policies ensure that technology is produced and used in ways that are responsible, equitable, and useful to society by offering an organised method for addressing ethical challenges.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR),which was put into effect by the European Union, is one prominent example of a policy that promotes ethics in technology. (Future of Privacy Forum, (2017))In order to ensure transparency and user permission, the GDPR imposes stringent requirements on how organisations gather, keep, and process personal data. Strong security measures are required, and people are granted rights over their data, including the ability to access, edit, and remove information. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has greatly improved privacy and accountability in the digital sphere by promoting greater control over personal information and impacting international data protection policies. (The GDPR: European Regulation of Data Protection and Privacy, (2018))

Transparency between producers and consumersprivacy and data protection

The practice of being open and truthful with customers about the sources, uses, and sharing of their personal data is known as customer data transparency. Customers have control over their personal information because the data management procedures are transparent. Businesses must take responsibility for the way they manage sensitive data. (Jennifer King, (2017))

Data processing and use must adhere to relevant laws and regulations and be morally righteous. Clients must to be fully informed about the reasons businesses and organisations need their data as well as the sources, storage, and security measures in place for their personal information. (Journal of Global Information Management, (2017)).

Transparency in data essentially means granting the user complete control over their personal information. If not, clients won't be aware of who has access to their private data.

First, there must be awareness regarding data accessibility and transparency. In addition, the person must be able and willing to exercise their rights and maintain control over their own data. (James Rachels, (1975))

From a place of concern about data privacy, awareness rises. Because of consumer demand, businesses are likewise putting strong data access policies into place. Setting customer data accessibility and transparency as a top priority is a commitment that shows consumers that the brand values their privacy rights and fosters customer loyalty.(Stanford Law Review, (2015))

As an example, Apple's App Tracking Transparency (ATT) framework mandates that apps first ask the user's consent before tracking their activity on websites and apps owned by other companies.(TechCrunch, (2022))

By enabling users to make knowledgeable decisions regarding their privacy and data sharing, this transparency helps to build confidence between the business and its clients. Apple exemplifies its ethical commitment to safeguarding user privacy by providing explicit information about the collection, usage, and sharing of data. This promotes a more moral use of technology. By putting user rights and data security first, this strategy not only complies with privacy laws but also establishes a benchmark for other Internet companies to follow, eventually benefiting society. (The Ethnics of Information Transparency, (2013)).

A Harris Poll poll conducted in 2019 on behalf of RedPoint Global found that 63% of respondents want and expect personalisation as a standard of service.(RedPoint Global, (2019)).

A company can obtain a competitive edge by deliberately identifying and implementing the highest degree data privacy practices. This will protect the company from legal issues and convey a clear message to consumers. After all, in an information economy, consumer trust is the key factor that will open gates to information, which is fundamental.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the digital era has ushered in unprecedented advancements in technology, profoundly transforming society in multifaceted ways. While these innovations bring about remarkable benefits, they also pose significant ethical challenges that must be addressed to ensure a fair, just, and equitable digital landscape. From issues of privacy and surveillance to the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and the digital divide, it is imperative that we adopt a proactive and reflective approach to technology design and implementation.

Ethical frameworks and guidelines must evolve in tandem with technological progress, emphasizing the importance of human values, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Stakeholders, including technologists, policymakers, ethicists, and the public, must engage in continuous dialogue and collaboration to navigate these complex issues. By prioritizing ethical considerations, we can harness the power of technology to enhance human well-being and societal progress while mitigating potential harms and ensuring that the benefits of the digital revolution are shared by all.

Ultimately, the ethical stewardship of technology is not just a responsibility but a necessity for shaping a future that aligns with our collective moral and social values. As we move forward, it is crucial to remain vigilant and committed to fostering a digital world that upholds the dignity, rights, and welfare of every individual.

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