

MIST 315 Assignment 4 – the Ethics Project

Ethical Issues in Contemporary Information Systems

Earlier this semester, we've studied the emerging Internet social networking sites. In this project, we are going to look into the ethical issues of the contemporary information systems through the following real world case. Please write a paper of six to eight pages that presents your analysis on this case, with recommendations and supporting arguments to establish an ethical position.

"Employer demands for facebook and email passwords as precondition for job interviews may be a violation of federal law; Senators ask feds to investigate

<http://schumer.senate.gov/Newsroom/record.cfm?id=336396>

March, 2012

NEW YORK, NY – U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) today called on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to launch a federal investigation into a new disturbing trend of employers demanding job applicants turn over their user names and passwords for social networking and email websites to gain access to personal information like private photos, email messages, and biographical data that is otherwise deemed private. According to recent reports, certain employers across the country are demanding the information from job applicants as part of the interview process – including photos and personal messages not shared with anyone else. Blumenthal and Schumer argued that this disturbing practice represents a grave intrusion into personal privacy that could set a dangerous precedent for personal privacy and online privacy, make it more difficult for Americans to get jobs, and expose employers to discrimination claims. Today, in letters to the EEOC and the DOJ, Blumenthal and Schumer called for a federal investigation into whether the practice is illegal under federal law."

A3 - good sample



ETHICAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY INFORMATIONS SYSTEMS

Automobile Privacy



MAY 7, 2014
NICHOLAS SMITH

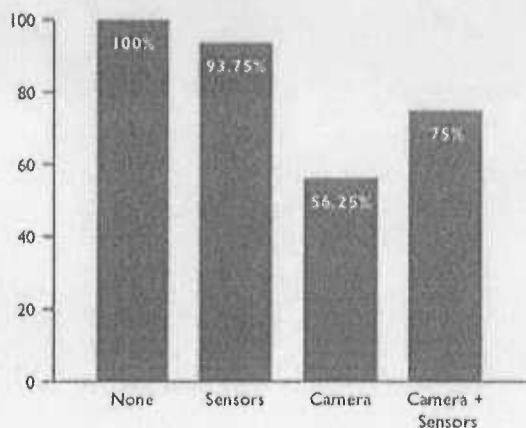
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Abstract

This assignment is drawn to providing an ethical response to certain issue that is taking place in the United States today. The issue is brought forth by Senator Charles E. Schumer. The issue is whether or not the driver's information should be protected and made clear as about to where their information is going. There is going to be graphs along with both positives and negatives to help the reader understand both sides of the argument. At the end of the paper there will be a position in what I believe is the right thing to do, along with some possible solutions to move toward a common goal.

In the past several years, the automotive industry has become more and more technologically advanced. This technology is growing at a rapid rate and coincides with the continued advancement in technology as a whole. The recent advancements however seem, in some people's eyes, to have gone too far. Senator Schumer has raised a growing concern with what technology is placed in the cars and what they can do. Cars now have the ability to know who the driver is, know where the driver likes to go, and know other person information about the driver, just to name a few. Now, to some people this may seem as a convenience, but other people may see it as an invasion of privacy. We as humans already have cell phones and other smart devices that can handle these tasks, why do the cars we drive need to have the same privileges? Besides does anyone really know where the information we provide goes? I for one believe in what Senator Schumer is calling for. Give the people "clear opt-out opportunities for drivers" who wish for their information not to be tracked.

The technology in cars today is outstanding in today's world. People nowadays don't have to parallel park their cars, get warned if they are about to get into an accident, and don't have to turn their heads around anymore to back up. All of these advancements help out for every human who is driving, even if you do not have a car with such technology.



The graph to the left displays a bar chart with the amount of times a person hit a stationary object with various types of technology. As one can tell the car with no technology with the object 100 percent of the time and the rate is at its lowest when the same person driving a car with the

backup camera.

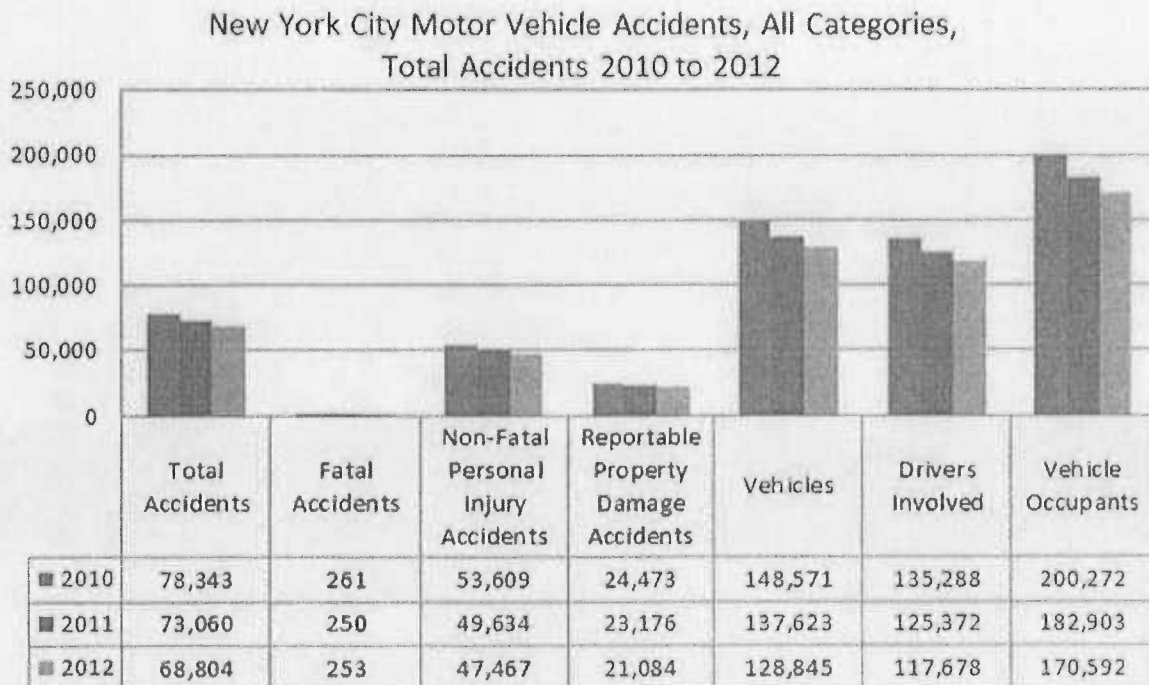
This brief chart proves why some of the technology is good and should be available in all new cars. The safety of every human is increased, the person driving the car and also the others around who do not have the technology.

With every positive to these technological advancements there are some negatives. The one glaring one is, the person is being tracked every time they step foot into the car. A third party knows exactly where they are going, how they got to the destination, and how fast or slow they were going among other things. The red flag is who is this third party? And why should they have the rights to know of everything he/she is doing in their own car? This data that is collected by a third party is supposed to give the car makers a better understanding of what the average person is doing with their car, in order to provide the future customers with a better car. In some cases this works (the backup cameras previously stated). However this could just as easily be turned into a huge privacy issue with car owners. People believe they are in a sense of privacy in their cars, hence why people tend to do things like sing while they listen to the radio. If this trust is broken between the car companies and their customers, then who is going to buy a new car? This privacy issue is going to need to be handled since the features in cars continue to move forward.

Another issue I have with the topic is, what exactly are the third parties actually doing with the information they gather? Are they strictly just gathering numbers and information in general to provide a better more efficient car in the future? Or are the third parties taking personal information for their own use? From what I have understood the general public does not know the answer to those questions. Moreover, because the public does not know who these third party

companies are. Furthermore, the third parties or the car companies do not provide answers to where and what information is gathered. This creates an uneasy state with the public.

Taking in the information I have gathered, I would have to agree with Senator Schumer in what he is calling for. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should work together and establish guidelines that will deal with this ongoing problem. The safety is an undeniable positive that this technology provides humans.



Even though this chart states only New York City in its title, it shows various results of accidents and in each one they are declining year after year. This is a direct result as to the technology getting better and better every year in cars. With the accidents going down as a result to the technology, the invasion of privacy theory tends to increase. Now to balance out the positives and negatives, give the people a choice. Allow for the customer to decide whether or not he/she

would like for their information should be tracked every time they step foot into the car. This gives the people the responsibility. Allowing for the people to have the responsibility allows for them to only blame themselves if something goes wrong. Furthermore, once the third party has the information, allow for the people who provide the information, to see what information is actually being gathered. If they believe the information is too personal, they would then be allowed to rescind their right to provide the information. This gives the people a sense of entitlement and power, which everyone loves to have. What information that is gathered should be worked out by the FTC and NHTSA and then provided to these third parties and the public. The car business is not going anywhere in the near future, so there is some time to experiment with what should be done and what shouldn't be. Lastly, I believe there is something wrong with the current setup, and I believe Senator Schumer should continue in his pursuit of getting this done correctly.

Works Cited

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"Senator Charles E. Schumer." *Senator Charles E. Schumer*. N.p., n.d. Web. 6 May 2014. <<http://www.schumer.senate.gov/Newsroom/record.cfm?id=349459>>.