

Complementing Codes of Ethics with Law and Regulation

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As generally, Codes of Ethics are not legally binding, have Law and Regulation stepped in to complement the gaps to improve the public's trust in goods and services that use new technologies including AI?

AI Ethical Frameworks

- When I reviewed AI ethical frameworks in 2019, there were more than 70 in existence. The number continues to grow. In 2019, jurisdictions including Australia [1] and the EU [2] published their frameworks, adding to the lists of contributors including the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence [3], the World Economic Forum AI Governance: A Holistic Approach To Implement Ethics Into AI [4] and the Singapore Model AI Governance Framework [5].
- Debates have matured significantly since then, beyond ethical principles to more detailed guidelines on how such principles can be operationalised in the design and implementation to minimise risks and negative outcomes.
- But the challenge has always been putting principles into practice.

Responsibility and Liability for damages caused by AI



- There is much debate as to who amongst the various players and actors across the design, development and deployment lifecycle of AI and autonomous systems should be responsible and liable to account for any damages that might be caused.
- Would autonomy and self-learning capabilities alter the chain of responsibility of the programmer or developer as the “AI-driven or otherwise automated machine which, after consideration of certain data, has taken an autonomous decision and caused harm to a human’s life, health or property” [6]?

Living the standard



- ICT professionals understand better than most on the trends and trajectories of technologies and their potential impact on the economic, safety and social constructs of the workplace and society.
- Is it incumbent on ICT professionals and professional societies to raise these issues and ensure they are widely debated, so that appropriate and intelligent decisions can be made for the changes, risks and challenges ahead?
- ICT professionals are well placed to address the risks and challenges during the design and lifecycle of AI-enabled systems.
- It would be beneficial to society for ICT professionals to assist government, legislators, regulators and policy formulators with their unique understanding of the strengths and limitations of the technology and its effects.