ETHICS ESSAY

A Quick Check-In
HOW TO APPROACH THE ESSAY

STEP 1
Identify 1 or 2 parts of your system to discuss in the essay.

STEP 2
Chose 1 or 2 ethical issues* to apply on the system parts you have identified.

STEP 3
Outline and provide your system/project brief. Present the ethical issues as problems and solutions* in your essay.

CORE COMPONENTS
DATA
MODELS
YOUR SYSTEM

TRANSPARENCY
SYSTEM INTEGRITY
SECURITY
PRIVACY
SUSTAINABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS
ETHICAL ISSUES

* Your arguments must take into consideration professional codes of conduct such as by HKIE, WFEO, GDPR, UNESCO AI, OPEN SOURCE and ACM.
The Big Question

-how do I build a system? What are the core components? Are you dealing with models and data? How can you be compliant and construct a system with full awareness of ethics.

-Think of system integrity, security, privacy, sustainability, and environmental considerations surrounding your system, components, models or data.

-The essay is not about your own personal opinion or a moral discussion of right and wrong.
STEP 1 Look closely at your system architecture. Identify the system part that you would like to analyse for ethics considerations.
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Below is a simple design concept of our mobile app.

Figure 23: Concept of the app
The Ethics Essay: The Interior

Project Brief: Provide a brief of your project and identify the system parts. Zero-in on your chosen part/s which you will be studying from the “ethical” standpoint.

Two issues: Having considered two ethical issues, present them as problems and solutions.

- Problems should be something that is within your control and not external un-provables to the system or tools, eg. case studies, tutorials, supervisors or government.

- Solutions should be specific (not generalized), appropriate and targeted to datasets, OR system design, OR database design, OR models, OR particular issues to you like code safety.

- Your view to the solution is the point of view of a developer.
The Ethics Essay: The Interior

- The Ethics Essay should be a real, scientific document. A document that team-members or bosses can refer to and make decisions or take actions.

- The ethical issues have to be directly related to your project: its system, data, model or data base.

- The Essay can be more than 600 words. **600 words is the minimum.**

- Premium is placed on: 1. Content 2. Relevance (pertains to your system architecture/project) and 3. Clarity (language and logic).

- Articulation of your two ethical issues and the expansion of your two solutions in a specific way is key.

- Engagement with your solutions, showing how they work from a developer’s view is important.
Final Pointers

◦ What is your project about? For example, is it Location Sensing? NLP? Are you proving a model? A recommender? Are you building a Database? Cloud Storage?

◦ You have chosen a system part/parts that led to analysis where vulnerabilities lie and need to be mitigated. What are they? What should you prioritize? How do you mitigate?

◦ What are the solutions to your ethical considerations?

◦ In a group project, you may have divided your work into components/parts with a view of integrating into a system. In this case, you would focus on the system component you are responsible for.

◦ You should have an illustration/diagram as a start point for yourself. But do not include your diagram in the essay.

◦ Analyze: What are the ethical questions that need to be considered when building your system/component/model.

◦ When selecting your two ethical issues, you would have looked at regulations in HKIE, WFEO, GDPR etc. Your project must be compliant with these regulations. These do not need to be in the body of the essay but should be included as a footnote.