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Abstract

Deliverable D3.2 consists of a collection of “real-world” case studies of algorithmic bias and other social issues in intelligent, algorithmic systems. The case studies collected have been archived for sharing at the CyCAT website, and have been characterized in terms of the type of system being described, as well as any relevant diversity dimensions.

Keyword(s):

Algorithmic bias, case studies, deployed systems, educational/instructional material, social and cultural parameters

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1. Executive Summary

D3.2 constitutes a dataset of “real world” case studies of algorithmic system biases reported in the popular press and social media. In contrast to the scientific articles collected and analyzed in D3.1, the systems analyzed in this deliverable are necessarily systems deployed “in the wild,” which have exhibited behaviours that have caught the attention of journalists and the public alike.

This collection of articles is meant to facilitate the work to be undertaken in WP5, particularly with respect to the creation of educational materials for teachers as well as for system developers. Section 2 provides a brief overview of the characteristics of the cases we found. Furthermore, we have made this deliverable accessible to the public; Section 3 describes how it can be accessed.

2. Accessing the dataset

The dataset has been published as an educational resource on the CyCAT website: <http://www.cycat.io/case-studies/>

The dataset is currently stored as a Google Sheet, as to allow easy updating as well as downloading in a variety of formats.

For each case study, the following attributes have been catalogued in the spreadsheet:

- Brief description of the “real world” problem
- The type of information system being described
- The respective diversity dimension¹ (e.g., race, gender, socio-economic status) upon which the system exhibits potentially problematic behaviours
- Summary of the problem space being described in the case study
- Whether the algorithmic bias is explicit or implicit
- The original URL of the reported case study
- The respective dataset used to examine the problem (if relevant / available)

¹ Please see D3.3 for a complete description of our conceptual framework, based on a “diversity lens.”