

Ethical Challenges in AI Worksheet

Drawing inspiration from Caroline Whitbeck's work, ["Ethics as Design: Doing Justice to Moral Problems,"](#) this checklist is designed to guide you through the complex landscape of ethical decision-making in AI. Whitbeck's approach reframes ethics as a dynamic design process rather than a static set of rules, emphasizing the importance of creative problem-solving and context-sensitive responses.

By using this worksheet, you can apply the principles of engineering design to address ethical challenges in AI and to guide your decision-making process.

1. **Devising Responses** - Ethical dilemmas in AI are not merely about selecting the best option from a given set but about creating new solutions. This requires a shift from judgment to active problem-solving.
 - Do I have the agency to act on this ethical dilemma? If not, who does?
 - What are the constraints?
 - What can I do given the constraints?
 - What are some possible courses of actions and what are the consequences?
2. **Considering Context** - Ethical decisions in AI must consider the specific context and stakeholders involved.
 - What is the context? Where, when, and what took place?
 - Who are the stakeholders involved?
 - Who benefits and who is harmed in this scenario?
 - Who is responsible for the consequences?
 - Have I ensured that my decision-making process takes into account the broader social, cultural, and economic impacts?
3. **Exploring Multiple Solutions** - There often isn't a single correct answer to an ethical problem. Multiple solutions may be viable, each with its own strengths and weaknesses.
 - Have I identified and evaluated multiple viable solutions?
 - What are the unique strengths and weaknesses of each solution?
 - Have I compared the potential outcomes of different solutions to understand their implications fully?
 - Can I combine two or more solutions?

4. **Iterative Problem-Solving** – Solutions often need to be revisited and revised as new information and feedback become available.
 - Am I prepared to refine and adapt solutions based on new information and feedback from stakeholders?
 - Have I implemented a process for continuous monitoring and assessment to ensure solutions remain relevant and effective?

5. **Adapting to Change** - Ethical situations are dynamic and can evolve over time, requiring ongoing reassessment and response.
 - Has the situation evolved over time? Will it?
 - Will my solution/approach remain current and effective over time?
 - When do I need to reassess the situation?