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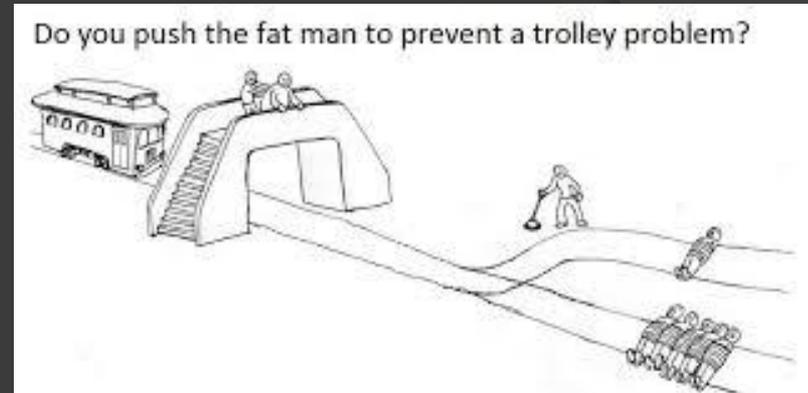
# CHAPTER 2: THREE ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS

# Why use frameworks?

- ◎ Models: simplified pictures for understanding
- ◎ Lenses: emphasize different concepts

# Thought experiments: stories used to illustrate situations

- Trolley Problem
- Patient who arrives at Emergency Room – should he be forced to donate organs?



# 1: Virtue Ethics

## ◎ Aristotle

- Greek philosopher circa 300s BC
- Virtuous mean opposes excess and absence

## ◎ Virtuous doesn't mean "saintly"

- Right answer about what to do rests on question: What kind of PERSON do I want to be?
- Virtues may derive from religious thought

# Virtue Ethics cont.

## ◎ Critiques of Virtue Ethics

- Opposition to models per se
- Pragmatics and society
- No fixed moral character
- Focus on MY moral character means Virtue inherently selfish: Is my being 'someone who doesn't lie' worth telling the truth to the Nazis during WW II?

# Virtue Ethics in Cyberspace

- ◎ Virtue applies to cyberspace
  - Bert Olivier: People *should* be good in other circumstances, so why not cyberspace?
  - Vallor's twelve 'techno-moral virtues'
- ◎ Inherent differences to cyberspace
  - Internet's architecture facilitates vices like deception
  - Disparity between online identities and real identities

# 2: Deontological Ethics

## ◎ Immanuel Kant

- Ethics of duty or obligation based on reason
- Certain behaviors as moral duties or obligations
- Categorical imperative: If this position was applied to everyone, am I willing for this be a universal law?
- Treat others as “ends in themselves” not “means to the ends of others”

## ◎ Critique of Kant

- Too idealistic, unachievable
- Too inflexible, absolute

# Deontology cont.

## ◎ John Rawls

- Political applications of categorical imperative
- Says JUST solution is one which does least harm to MOST vulnerable person (not everyone getting the same)
- CYBER: How might surveillance be applied so that no one is unfairly surveilled, even if they're poor, etc.

## ◎ Critique of Rawls

- Michael Sandel: individual v. collective goods
- Utilitarianism: too risk adverse

# Deontology in Cyberspace

- ◎ Arguments about duties in cyberspace
  - Assumes cyberspace not unique
  - Attribution, trust, and deception
  - Robot ethics
    - Can machines think in a deontological though lacking reflective capacity?
    - Or can they only calculate outcome (utility)?

# 3: Utilitarian Ethics

- ⦿ Theological, consequentialist theory// concerned most of all with outcomes
- ⦿ Jeremy Bentham
  - Pursuit of pleasure, hedonism
  - Ethics based on reason, not religion
  - “Utilitarian calculus”
- ⦿ John Stuart Mill
  - “Rules” based on utility
- ⦿ Virtue v. Utility
  - Virtue emphasizes intent
  - Utilitarianism stresses outcome

# Utilitarianism in Cyberspace

- ◎ Moor and ACM Code of Ethics
  - Universal computer ethics
  - ASK FOR
  - Access to goods, avoid 'bads'
  
- ◎ Tuffley and Antonio
  - Ethical technology “life affirming”
  - Human flourishing standard

# *Application: Is Tor Unethical?*

- ⦿ Tor: ‘The Onion Router’
- ⦿ Origins
  - Originally US government funded
  - Dark web
- ⦿ Ethics: problem of complicity
  - Can tech be ‘evil’?
  - Constructivism: neither good/bad
  - Virtue: integrity, self-restraint
  - Utilitarianism: increase anti-social/state behavior
  - Deontology: universal rules

# *Critical Issues: Ethics of Wikipedia*

- ◎ Communitarian principles
  - Collaborative project, volunteer built
  - Collectively produced knowledge
- ◎ Controversies
  - Politics of equity/representation
  - Actively hostile towards groups
  - High participation barriers
  - Problem of harm
  - Guilt/culpability

# Discussion

- ⦿ What obligations exist for computer security professionals?
- ⦿ Should people behave the same online as in person?

