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Business Ethics

The selected article's headline is "Google's code of ethics on military contracts could hinder Pentagon work." Lea B. D. authored the piece in the year 2018. The article discusses how some Google employees are opposed to an agreement between Google Corporation and the United States military to collaborate on Project Maven's execution. The staff members are eager to raise ethical concerns about the project initiative. This paper examines the ideals' principles and logic, the project's impacts and repercussions, the moral rights at stake, and the article's proposals for Utilitarian and Kantian perspectives.

The argument behind the picked principles is that they are norms or values that a group of individuals strive for as a common objective. The struggle that arises when opposing principles are exposed is the rationale underlying the results at stake. As a result, issues about the morality of an act arise. Additionally, the justification for the implications at risk involves the philosophic effects. Choices cause problems because of their effects or consequences on the majority. Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure is the name of the project (JEDI). Over 3000 workers agreed the deal should be terminated and have protested against Google's leadership to force them to conform to their requests. Staff wrote a statement to Google CEO refusing to participate in Project Maven, a Pentagon experimental project. Objecting workers felt that Project Maven will be a trade of warfare and that Google should stay out of it. The initiative, they believe, should be abandoned. According to Lea (2018), employees were concerned that Google would house confidential and sensitive data, and they wondered what the army hoped to achieve with the innovation. They wanted Google to implement policies and make them available to the public before similar projects could be executed. Google's policy should state that neither it nor its subcontractors should design and implement military technology. Apart from making the new

policies public, Google employees also demanded that the project be canceled. One of several moral rights that has been infringed is that the corporation should not participate in military affairs. Still, since major tech conglomerates like Microsoft, Oracle, and Amazon are vying for the project, Google is contending with rivals (Lea, 2018). The majority of Google employees had already objected after their engagement in Pentagon-owned Project Maven.

Utilitarianism is a philosophical position that encourages undertakings that bring contentment and satisfaction while discouraging actions that bring desolation or suffering. As per utilitarianism, an action is warranted if it leads to the pleasure of the principal audience in a community or crowd. The central emphasis of the utilitarian theory of ethics is on the repercussions. As a result, the decision must be made based on the overall pleasure. In this situation, Google does not want to get involved in military contracts or conflicts either directly or as a proxy. In addition to that, there is a good likelihood that once the technology is transferred to the United States military, the United States military will repurpose it. Therefore, society will blame the results on Google. The Kantian rule of ethics, on the other hand, focuses on ethics that serves all individuals without analyzing their goals or ambitions. As a result, a Kantian will advise Google to complete the agreement because it will profit economically. At the same time, the Department of Defense will have improved its combat operations.

To sum it up, depending on one's opinion, Google's engagement with the United States military is either good or negative. Regardless, the project was shrouded in numerous ethical concerns. In addition, such technological initiatives can also be weaponized and used to unfairly target innocent civilians, and cases abound. Therefore, the employees of Google are right in raising their objections to a project they feel is unethical. In addition to that, Google had a policy

regarding collaboration with the military in designing technologies. In this regard, this policy should take precedent at the expense of any economic gains achieved.

Reference

Lea, B. D. (2018, April 13). *Google's code of ethics on military contracts could hinder Pentagon's work*. Fox Business. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/features/google-code-of-ethics-on-military-contracts-could-hinder-pentagon-work>

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