Working Meeting Wrap-Up
Ethics of affect in tomorrow’s HCI

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Wrap-up summary of this morning’s session

“Auditing” of the HUMAINE ethics framework against Bernd-Carsten Stahl’s mindmap (cf. yesterday)

The verdict…
- We do well!
- We are “Ahead of the Pack”!
- We have been knowing all along
  ➔ White paper target specified in the Technical Annex
Wrap-up…: Acceptability of technology

Critique
- As formulated by Weizenbaum, Dreyfus,…

Replique!
- Is it ethical not to try improve the bad interfaces? (“Have you ever hated an answer form? Or wanted to smash a cell phone?”)
- Inclusion:
  ethical imperative to acknowledge the affective dimension of human-computer interaction!

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Wrap-up…: Ingredients for success

- **Ian Sneddon**
  - Be pragmatic, stay on track (avoid meta-ethics)
  - Keep things simple, while safeguarding *necessary* level of detail

- **Roddy Cowie**
  - A highly competent and motivated captain with a worked out plan

- **Peter Goldie**
  - Authoritative grounding in theory (silences ethics sophomores)
  - Thinking support

- **A strawman gopher**
  - To take care of errands

- **Available expertise**
  - Other members of the Ethics Committee
  - Continuous feedback from the “laypersons” community

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Wrap-up… Some topics and perspectives

  - In HUMAINE:
    - Heterogeneity in background of HUMAINE constituency
    - Awareness of outcome issues
    - Process issues → addressed and covered

- Identify and emphasise what is particular about ethics of emotion
  - “Psychology amplified”

- Address dynamics of impacts (societal reactions)
- Responsibility of network (stakeholders)

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Wrap-up…: Key problems

- Ignorance
  - Core ethical responsibility to educate

- Information
  - Semi-intelligent information filters
  - Judgments that normally depend on intelligence
  - Used in high-impact situations

- Emotion-oriented systems will affect people's emotions without empathy (shielding)
  - Emotion is inherently ethically sensitive

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Wrap-up…: Reaching out

- Information dissemination via key contacts
- Involvement of broad public, cf. e.g. Meeting of Minds on the Brain Science, 2006

http://www.meetingmindseurope.org/

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Wrap-up…: Ethics White paper and Summer School

Approach
- Challenges
- Principles
- Answers
- Recommendations

Summer School
- University of Manchester, August 29-31, 2007
Acknowledgments

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