Abstract

"An Investigation into the Ethical Challenges of the Internet of Things Ambient Assisted Living in Ireland."

MSc in the Management of Information Systems Strategy

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This research dissertation is the final part of a Master's Degree in the Management of Information Systems and will give a broad, but an informative view into the ethical challenges of the Internet of Things Ambient Assisted Living (IoT AAL) in Ireland from the perspective of six interviewee participants. The ethical challenges identified from the literature as part of this research are Privacy, Security, Social Isolation, Behaviour Modification, Roboethics and Regulation. Interview Participants ranged from Team leaders, Robotics Subject Matter Experts, Project Directors and Project owners, and all have a strong academic background with three having earned the title of Doctor in their chosen area.

These research participants were chosen from a carefully selected stakeholder membership, the reason for this was to capture a broad outlook of experience of ethics surrounding IoT Assisted technologies.

This research was a qualitative study; the design type was phenomenological using semi-structured interviews lasting forty minutes. Four out of the six interviews had eight main question and seven smaller questions to answer while two interviewees had specific question or questions relating to their subject matter.

The interviewees were also invited to give reflections of their experiences along with the questions asked. All interviews were digitally recorded with a manual analysis of the research findings using a qualitative approach.

This report will show that Ireland through work carried out in research institutes and through a charity working with elderly people are very much aware of the ethical challenges they face in Ireland. In addition to the ethical challenges identified in the literature, additional challenges of assessment, training, and safety emerged from the interviews. IoT AAL technology is still at an early stage in Ireland and there is potential to expand into the community and become a major technology in the self-management of older people in years to come.