Ethical Issues in Big Data Technologies

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Big data technologies, integrated in the processes of collecting and analyzing data, are in use in a wide range of industries and applications. Their advantages are well known – they assist organizations in learning their customers’ behavior and needs, making data-based decisions, and streamline processes by performing actions automatically. Along with the benefits, there are also voices criticizing the use of these technologies due to various ethical issues, which are reflected in cases of invasion of privacy, errors and biases. This paper turns a spotlight on these ethical issues and reviews various tools, technological and organizational, that organizations can use to address problems and balance the benefits and risks of technologies.

Investments of Insurance Companies in Information Technologies and Insurtech

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Innovative information technologies and insurtech ventures have begun to significantly change the insurance industry. At the same time, some of the traditional insurance companies are working to achieve a strategic advantage through the application of innovative information technologies and investments in insurtech projects. At the same time, traditional insurance companies continue to invest huge sums in opening and maintaining legacy systems. The results of this study are threefold: (1) on average, small insurance companies in the world invest more than four times more (!) in the maintenance of existing information technologies than large insurance companies; (2) Israeli insurance companies invest more than twice as much in the maintenance of existing information technologies as foreign insurance companies of a similar size; and (3) the relative volume of expenses of the large Israeli insurance companies to maintain existing information technologies is significantly higher than that of the small Israeli insurance companies. These results are opposite to the trend in the world.