Data and the Public Interest – Fair Questions from Civil Society

Data Governance Questions For the Engineering Community

1. What are the top five challenges to supporting Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications where you work?
2. What skills and training do you think are needed to implement AI?
3. Does your company have a framework for AI adoption? How do you avoid AI projects becoming stuck in proof-of-concept purgatory?
4. There is a tendency for industry to think AI only resides in the IT space, that is a misconception. Where do you think engineering becomes central to AI both in terms of application and safety? Do you know of any examples?
5. Because the career path isn't obvious, it's difficult to find technical leaders for these types of projects. How do you approach similar issues in your organization? Does AI fit well?
6. Given the increase in cybercrime and cybersecurity breaches, what is the role of engineers in ensuring the implementation of sound data governance practices?
7. Should the engineering regulator in Ontario, Professional Engineers Ontario, consider creating a licensing category for computer engineers?
8. How has your organization responded to changes in privacy law before?
9. Can you look to your colleagues in other jurisdictions (such as in Europe with the General Data Protection Regulation) to understand if you can manage the changes that are coming to privacy law in Canada?
10. What costs are associated with these changes? Do you have the resources to support a privacy officer? Does that role already exist, or does it have to be created?
11. Who should benefit from the digital economy?
12. How much power should individuals have over their data?
13. Should non-technical specialists (such as humanities or civil rights specialists) be embedded in the engineering design cycle as we develop new technology? Why or why not?
14. What are our values in the context of data governance and what business norms should be reflected in our digital strategy?
15. As engineers, how can we use data to enhance and grow our organizations, and do we have the skills to identify these opportunities?
16. What information should government be able to share, and what say should citizens have?
17. Should access to a base level of internet be a civil right?