

Understanding Consideration of Human Values in Software Applications Through Reddit

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Human values, as described in Schwartz's theory [1], strongly shape how people interact with digital technologies. For example, concerns about privacy influence how users manage their online data, the desire for freedom shapes their engagement with open platforms, and the need for accessibility determines whether technologies can be used by people with diverse abilities. These values are often reflected in online discussions, with platforms such as Reddit providing a rich source of conversations where they are openly articulated. Prior research has shown that mining Reddit can yield valuable insights for software requirements, demonstrating its potential as a source of user feedback [2]. Yet, despite their importance for attracting and retaining users, such values remain underrepresented in software artefacts [3].

This thesis aims to build on these insights by examining how human values are expressed in Reddit discussions and exploring whether large language models (LLMs) can automate their extraction and classification. The goal is to identify which values emerge, how frequently they are expressed, and how they vary across contexts, thereby providing a systematic foundation for analysing the role of human values in online communities.

References

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