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Is There any Room Between Secrecy and Transparency?

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1. A society both transparent and opaque

Society operates with both absolute transparency and total obscurity. All electronic messages, even private ones, are decryptable and probably decrypted. Nothing can be kept secret. It is impossible to keep an insurer uninformed of the seriousness of the illness of one of its policyholders. Even Heads of State, despite massive security measures, are sometimes eavesdropped. While at the same time, society operates with total opaqueness.

2. Secrecy and the patient

Do you have to tell a patient the truth? In practice, the notion of secrecy is often used to justify hiding medical information from a patient. The medical profession withholds information, even lies to the patient, in the belief that it for the patient's own good. That being so, how does a doctor decide what's good for the patient? On that point, it should be noted that doctors are far from arriving at a consensus.

3. Exponential development of health data

With global health data doubling in volume every 73 hours, practitioners and public authorities must be aware of the inevitable development of expert health systems. And platforms are a key factor in this shift, with the main issue not being respect for privacy, but the control and ownership of algorithms.

4. Inequality of access to data and inequality of health care

The ability to access data, connected things and uses, and the practices involved in it, could eventually lead to inequality in access to health care. This calls for deliberate action by public authorities.

5. Introduction of bias in epistemological studies?

If the pharmaceutical industry were able to identify the patients least likely to show side effects, they could be tempted to include them en masse in epistemological studies, to skew results.

6. The cyberwar is raging, but has only just begun



Pirates are increasingly prevalent on the internet. They work in isolation, as groups, as organized mafias and indeed States. Cyber defence is becoming a national issue, in a context where 120,000 attacks are recorded every day affecting every type of sector.