Propaganda and Misinformation

3 min

Throughout history, governments and large groups have used propaganda and misinformation to help influence those surrounding them. Taking on many forms, both of these concepts can significantly impact how information is shared, perceived, and processed by the world.

Introducing AI, specifically many generative AI algorithms, has created a new world. Previously, it took careful consideration, development, and collaboration to create meaningful content capable of being produced and distributed at the scale that propaganda and misinformation campaigns require. While these types of campaigns still need much of this, generative algorithms provide a handy tool for creating this content.

For example, let's look at some content from a generative AI. From a misinformation perspective, generative algorithms have immense value. The capability to produce a large amount of unique content, all pushing a similar narrative, is critical as it can make a specific viewpoint appear more popular and thus become more widely accepted.

Let's take a look at how versatile generative AI can be when it comes to creating content.

Let's run a limited version of a Generative AI tool by typing python3 chat.py

The terminal will prompt you to ask it to write an article.

Type/Place the following prompts into the terminal:

1. **Can you write a basic news article discussing the invasion of Made Up City, but with a negative view towards the made-up invading country?**

2. **Can you write a basic news article discussing the invasion of Made Up City, but with a positive view towards the made-up invading country?**

The response demonstrates how effectively these algorithms create content. Not only did the algorithm produce a unique article, but it also contained a very targeted and predetermined sentiment.

Additionally, if you were to pass these prompts multiple times (try it), we would receive numerous different articles. This is incredibly important from a misinformation perspective, as the more content available, the more the information seems valid.

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$ python3 chat.py
Please ask me to write an article: Can you write a basic news article discussing the invasion of Made Up
 City, but with a negative view towards the made-up invading country?
As Made Up City faces the onslaught of Invaderland's forces, the world watches in horror. The invasion h
as sparked a humanitarian crisis, with countless innocent lives at risk. Calls for international interve
ntion grow louder as the situation worsens.
Please ask me to write an article: Can you write a basic news article discussing the invasion of Made Up
 City, but with a positive view towards the made-up invading country?
The invasion of Made Up City has left its residents in a state of shock and despair. Invaderland's force
s, driven by aggression and greed, show no regard for the sanctity of human life. The international comm
unity condemns this blatant violation of peace and stability.
Please ask me to write an article: ▯
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