Ezana N. Beyenne

MSDS 453, Section 57 2020

Week 6: Proposal for Fourth Research/Programming Assignment

Initially, I was building a corpus on the criticisms of Facebook, and wanted to use that model to see if other companies followed a similar path and how they ended up rebuilding their public image. As I did more research, I found two interesting issues that kept coming up. First, the psychological effects of social media, especially when one is the target of toxic comments. Secondly, Fake news (especially being posted and disseminated by bots) kept coming up in association with Facebook. The two subtopics of my research were Toxic comments and Fake news, which are sometimes related to one another because of the vitriol that currently exists on social media when the topic is related to politics. Luckily, I could find the datasets on Kaggle, and I am having a hard time choosing between the two. The two data sets are:

1. The Getting Real about Fake News**:** This is an interesting topic because it would be great to find a way to detect fake news and stop it from going viral. There are several posts on how to detect fake news, but there is no standard way to detect them, since they seem to lack any consistency. The Kaggle dataset contains the data from 244 websites and has 12,999 posts that were tagged by the BS Detector Chrome extension. There are a lot of websites that provide guidelines, but as the fight against Fake news intensifies, the offenders keep evolving in more sophisticated cat and mouse game.

2. The Toxic Comment Classification Challenge: The 1st topic that I was going to choose was on the criticisms of Facebook, and one them was the psychological effect that online comments had on people. So, I saw this Kaggle dataset, which attempted to identify and classify toxic online comments. In this challenge, we will attempt to detect different types of toxicity like

threats, obscenity, insults and identity-based hate. It would be interesting to develop a model that can attempt to eliminate toxic comments from being posted.

There is a lot of literature and research being conducted on either topic, and I am hoping to let the reading help me determine which topic to pick. Any input or guidance on which way I should go would be greatly appreciated.