

VNR DESIGN-A-THON 2025

MindfulScroll

(Break the Doom Scrolling Cycle)

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Domain/PS Number: Open Innovation/3.3

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Abstract

Addiction to social media and doom scrolling have grown to be serious problems that have an adverse effect on work and mental health. By encouraging thoughtful content consumption and screen time balance, this project seeks to create an AI-powered digital wellness tool that assists users in breaking the loop of compulsive scrolling. The solution incorporates personalized screen time control tools, offers real-time alerts and recommendations, and uses AI sentiment analysis to identify extended exposure to harmful content. It also uses gamification strategies to motivate users to take breaks and keep up a positive online routine. The technology enables users to make well-informed decisions regarding their screen time by providing comprehensive data and insights into social media usage trends. The attention, mental health, and other aspects of digital well-being are all improved by this method.

Introduction

We are drowning in information while starving for wisdom. – E.O. Wilson.

The rise of social media has led to **doom scrolling**—an endless cycle of consuming distressing or unproductive content, often harming mental well-being. Studies link excessive social media use to anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances, yet many struggle to regulate their screen time due to addictive platform designs.

Our solution uses **AI-driven analysis, real-time alerts, and gamification** to encourage mindful digital consumption. By detecting prolonged negative engagement and providing personalized interventions, users can develop healthier browsing habits. Detailed analytics offer insights into social media usage, helping individuals take control of their digital well-being.

Problem statement

- Mention the existing solutions(if any) and their drawbacks.
- Social media addiction and doom scrolling contribute to declining mental health, reduced productivity, and disrupted sleep cycles.
- According to research, users spend an average of 2.5 hours daily on social media, with a significant portion engaging in doom scrolling.
- Existing solutions such as app-based time restrictions or manual timers fail due to the lack of personalization and adaptability.
- Our AI-driven tool offers a proactive and personalized approach, helping users develop mindful digital consumption habits.
- The target users include students, professionals, and anyone experiencing excessive screen time and social media dependency.

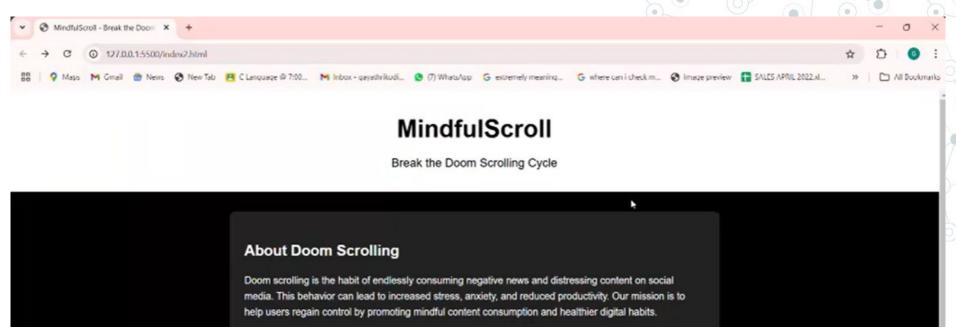
Technical Details

- Technologies & Frameworks: Python, React,
 TensorFlow, OpenCV, Flask, Firebase, AWS Cloud
 Services
- AI & NLP Models: Sentiment analysis, content classification, activity tracking
- APIs: Twitter API, Facebook Graph API, Instagram API for content analysis
- Database & Storage: Firebase Firestore for real-time data, AWS S3 for APIs: Twitter API, Facebook Graph API, Instagram API for content analysis
- Media storage

Prototype link: https://youtu.be/u58LQVRlK0E?si=fRgRTpJrKt0fW5q4

System Design

- User Interaction Layer: Mobile app with a user-friendly interface for insights and interventions.
- Recommendation System: Generates personalized interventions and screen time break reminders.
- Gamification Module: Encourages positive digital habits through reward mechanisms and achievements.
- Dashboard & Analytics: Provides users with insights into their social media habits, offering weekly reports.
 - **AI Analysis Engine:** Machine learning model to detect doom scrolling patterns based on content and time spent.



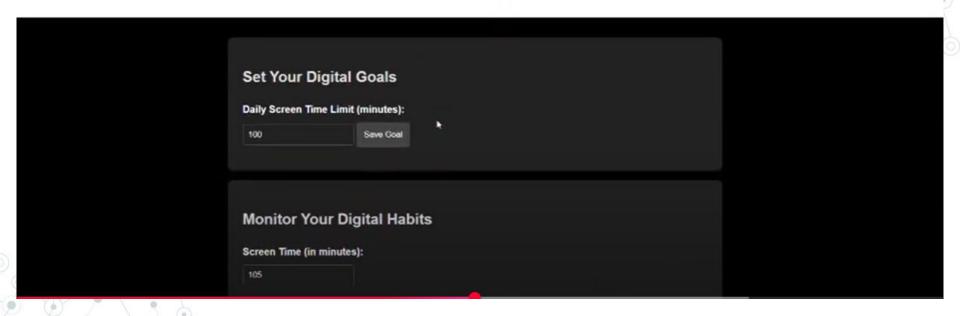
How Al Helps

Leveraging Al-based sentiment analysis and behavioral pattern recognition, our tool monitors your content consumption patterns. It detects when you're exposed to excessive negative content and provides real-time alerts and personalized recommendations. This integration of Al not only enhances your digital well-being but also tailors interventions to your unique browsing behavior.

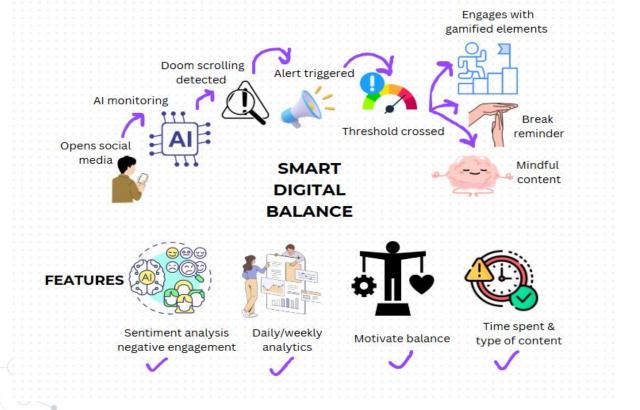


MindfulScroll

Break the Doom Scrolling Cycle



Prototype



Business Prospect

- Market Alignment & Trends Rising concerns over digital well-being and mental health create demand for AI-driven screen time management solutions.
- Problem Importance & Market Impact Doom scrolling negatively affects productivity, mental health, and sleep, making an AI-powered solution necessary.
- Target Audience & Beneficiaries Consumers, corporates, educational institutions, and wellness brands can benefit from healthier digital habits.
- Monetization Strategy Revenue can be generated through freemium models, subscriptions, B2B SaaS, API licensing, and ad partnerships.
- Unique Selling Proposition (USP) Al-driven real-time alerts, gamification, and
 content analysis make it more engaging than standard screen time apps.

Conclusion

- Impactful Solution The AI-powered tool helps combat doom scrolling and social media addiction, promoting healthier digital habits.
- User & Industry Benefits Enhances mental well-being, productivity, and focus for individuals, while also benefiting corporates, EdTech, and wellness brands.
- Market Relevance Addresses a growing global concern with digital burnout, aligning with trends in digital wellness and responsible tech.
- Future Scope Can be expanded with wearable integrations, AI-driven blocking, chatbot coaching, and corporate wellness programs.
- Final Takeaway With over 60% of users experiencing excessive screen time, this solution drives a more balanced and mindful digital future.

References

- The Impact of Social Media on Mental Health Journal of Cyberpsychology
- OpenAl Research on Sentiment Analysis & NLP
- Breaking the Digital Addiction Cycle Harvard Business Review
- Research on Digital Well-Being by Google & Apple
- Various API documentation sources (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook)