FAKE NEWS DETECTION

A Project Report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY

IN

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GITAM UNIVERSITY, VISAKHAPATNAM

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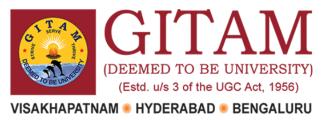
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DECLARATION

We, hereby declare that the mini-project report entitled "FAKE NEWS DETECTION" is an original work done in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, GITAM Institute of Technology, GITAM (Deemed to be University) submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering. The work has not been submitted to any other college or university for the award of any degree or diploma.

Date:

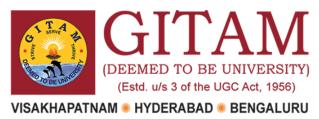
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project entitled **"FAKE NEWS DETECTION"** is a bonfide record of work carried out by

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We perceive this opportunity as a significant milestone in our career development. I will strive to use gained skills and knowledge in the best possible way, and I will continue to work on their improvement to attain desired career objectives. Hope to continue cooperation with all of you in the future.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	CONTENTS	PAGE.NO
	Declaration	ii
	Certificate	iii
	Acknowledgment	iv
1.	Abstract	6
2.	Introduction	7
3.	Literature Survey	8
4.	Problem Identification	10
6.	System Methodology	10
7.	Implementation	13
8.	Results	23
9.	Conclusion	24
10.	Scope for Future Development	24
11.	References	25

ABSTRACT

In recent years information sharing through internet and social media have grown abundantly and it is hard to find the authenticity of the news. This paper aims to detect the fake news using machine learning and web scraping methodologies. The proposed methodology performs the fake news classification on the labeled dataset based on one of the Machine learning algorithms i.e. logistic regression. Theproposed system also scrapes multiple news websites and checks for keywords mentioned in the input news article and calculate a percentage combining the results from the machine learning approach which uses the logistic regression algorithm and the web scraping approach. Also, a major factor to weigh in terms of fake news is the sentiment or the emotion behind the news article, the news article may be biased concerning a specific political propaganda, hence in favor of a side. But true news must be unbiased; it must be factual, not accusing or declarative. Thus, to inform the user about the bias in the news article, the proposed system performs sentimental analysis involving pre-processing, NLTK lemmatization, porter stemmer and uses naïve Bayesian algorithm and then presents the user with the sentiment behind the news article. The two above mentioned process will present the user with two outputs: the percentage of how accurate the news article combining the results from the logistic regression algorithm and web scraping approach.

INTRODUCTION

The increase in access to internet and the boom in social networking and media such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram etc. made the access to the news information much easier, portable and faster. Often the general public with access to internet can now follow news, their articles of interest and much more, right on their fingertips, anywhere and anytime. News, or content, or media in general have a huge influence on the society, it is both capable to sway opinions, change mindsets as we say in the US elections in 2016 and thus, there arises a high chances that someone wishes to exploit this opportunity in their favor. Sometimes to achieve personal gains, mass-media may manipulate the information in different ways. This leads to producing of the news articles that are not completely true or even completely false. Hence, the core objective of fake news is to reshape or mold the public opinion on certain matters, mostly targeted at satisfying a personal agenda which often include political motives. Furthermore, the feeling or sentiment behind the news article is a major factor to consider in terms of fake news; the news article may be skewed with respect to a specific political agenda, hence in favor of one hand. True news must be impartial; it must be factual, not accusatory or declarative. The proposed system detects the fake news using machine learning algorithm, scraps multiple news websites and keyword checks mentioned in the input news article and calculates a percentage that combines both approach results.

LITERATURE SURVEY

In an assortment of disciplines, including semantics and software and computer science engineering, counterfeit news has become a significant research subject. The authors clarify how the problem is approached from the natural language processing perspective, with the objective of proposing a system to detect unauthentic information in news automatically. The fake news classifier is constructed using logistic regression classifier, wherein the datasets were accumulated by Kaggle News for learning and testing of the system. A comprehensive tutorial-based approach is used for establishing the research and datasets were clearly listed, various detection strategies were coalesced under an intensive framework for counterfeit news detection and state-of-the art patterns and models were employed. FakeNewsTracker, a framework for counterfeit news comprehension and discovery can naturally gather information for news pieces and social setting, which advantages further research of comprehension and anticipating counterfeit news with successful representation procedures. Content-based, source-based, and diffusion-based approaches were presented. The work describes two opposite approaches and suggests an algorithmic solution synthesizing the main concerns. Also, raises awareness of the needs and opportunities of companies currently seeking to help automatically detect fake news through the provision of web services. The authors provide a detailed analysis of the findings of the latest false news. This is characterized by the negative effect of online fake news and state-of -the-art detection methods. Many of these are focused on defining client, content, and background features that suggest misinformation. It has existing repositories that are used to classify fake news. Clickbait, draws in user and their interest with garish features or structures to click connects to expand income from promotions. The work breaks down the commonness of phony news given the advancement made conceivable by the rise of longrange informal communication locales in correspondence. The goal this work is to develop a solution that users can use to identify and remove pages that contain false and misleading information. The main objective of the work is to highlight frameworks, which models distributer news relations and client news connections at the same time for counterfeit news.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The proposed work suggests a novel and amalgamated method combining some known and well researched methods merging the advantages of AI through the simplistic algorithm, Logistic Regression, which is a simple, easy to understand, quick yet efficient algorithm. Since a major drawback, for ML and AI algorithms, when it comes to processing information such as news articles would be the checking the accuracy of facts or news that have surfaced recently. Since the suggested algorithm for fake news detection only works on a predefined dataset, the training module might not work as efficiently for the same. Thus the proposed system boost the accuracy and bolsters the results through the integration of a web scraping module which is capable of scraping through various news websites, internationally recognized as accurate, for latest news articles and saving them into a text file for matching against the given input by the user. Also, another important aspect that underlies the fake news in the modern times is the use of hate speech viz. text that appeals to the emotions of people, to move their opinion against some issue, usually satisfying a political agenda. Hence to propose a wholesome solution the proposed system counters the propagation of hate speech by curbing it from the source, by felicitating the social media user who perceives the fake news or hate speech article, usually aligning with his political or religious bias, as authentic and forwards it to other citizens. Thus, the proposed system also provides a sentiment analysis module which can recognize the underlying sentiment behind the input text and inform the user for any bias in the sentiment behind the text.

Proposed System

The proposed work is being implemented through the integration of 2 modules, namely the logistic regression module and the web scraping module to detect fake news.

System Methodology

Logistic regression

The logistic regression module performs the simple task of taking the dataset, splitting it into two parts, viz. test and train set. The train dataset which is the Kaggle dataset is used to train the regression model for the user input which is the news to be tested in this case. It is a classification algorithm used for machine learning that predicts the likelihood of a categorical dependent variable, where it will be either fake or authentic henceforth logistic regression will help to describe a relationship between a set of independent variables and categorical dependent variables. The dependent variable in logistic regression is a binary variable that includes data encoded as 1 (the user given news is fake) or 0 (the news is authentic), hence these are the only two classes. The model gives a authenticity value between 0 and 1 later on converted into percentage and hence can be easily categorized as how much the news is authentic or fake. In plain terms it forecasts the possibility of incidence of fakeness in the news set by fitting the data to the logit function which has already been trained by the Kaggle dataset which the proposed system used to train the model. We will continue with the basic linear regression equation with dependent variable included in a relation function to proceed with logistic regression.

Web Scraping

However, the regression module alone is not enough to test against facts which form a major percentage of a news. Hence, to produce more accurate results and to check against newly surfaced news articles, the web scraping module is coupled with this model. The web scraping uses an inbuilt module called 'newspaper' which in turn combines two basic inbuilt modules of python viz. 'Requests' and 'lxml'. The requests module is used to send all kinds of HTTP requests. It is a pretty straightforward module which is imported in python and the necessary news website is requested using the Requests. Get(URL)The usage of requests module has been majorly implemented for its simplicity. The other module as mentioned above as used by the newspaper module is the 'lxml' module. After the page has been requested by the Requests module, the lxml file is used to handle the XML and HTML files. The whole HTML page can be seen in the form of an XML tree, having Elements and Sub-Elements. The text of the article is usually wrapped into some Sub-Element, hence following a tree like hierarchy.

Combining the results from the logistic regression module and the scraping

For more accuracy and better results, the results from both the logistic regression module and the scraping module are combined using pandas Concatenation and complete dataset is used for modelling the Fake News Detector

Text-Cleaning

Tools like NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit) are used. It helps to convert raw text into a list of words. We split the text into words, choosing alphanumeric character strings (A-Z, 0-9, a-z and '_'). We remove all punctuations like commas, quotes etc. along with the whitespaces.

TF-IDFVectorizer

Tokenization of the information was completed, and a corpus was made. TF-IDF, term recurrence reverse report recurrence vectorizer from the scikit-learn library is utilized for creating highlights right now. The TF-IDFvectorizer utilizes the corpus created utilizing tokenization. TF-IDFis an estimation plot allotting appraisal or loads dependent on its term recurrence (tf) and the reverse variable recurrence (IDF) for each word in a report. The weight relegated by TF-IDFvectorizer is utilized as a parameter to pass judgment on the pertinence of a word in the document. The words containing higher

weight esteems are regarded progressively significant. The worth expands relatively to how often a term shows upin the content yet is remunerated by the event of the term in the corpus

Results and Discussions

Actual Values			
	Positive (1)	Negatie(0)	
	True Positive	False Positive	
P Positive(1) r e d i	4718	146	
t e d V Negative(0)	False Negative	True Negative 4255	
u e s			

The confusion matrix results are given above which looks highly promising as the results of True Positive (TP) and True Negative (TN) are high. True Positives are 4718, true Negatives are 4255, False positives are 146 and false negatives are 147

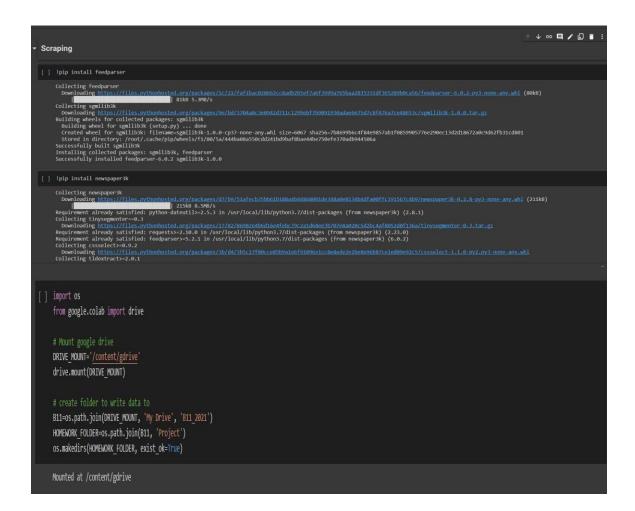
Hardware Requirements:

• Windows 10/8/7/XP

Software Requirements:

- Above 4GB RAM
- Jupyter notebook
- Python
- Colab notebook
- Python 3.6
- Google Drive

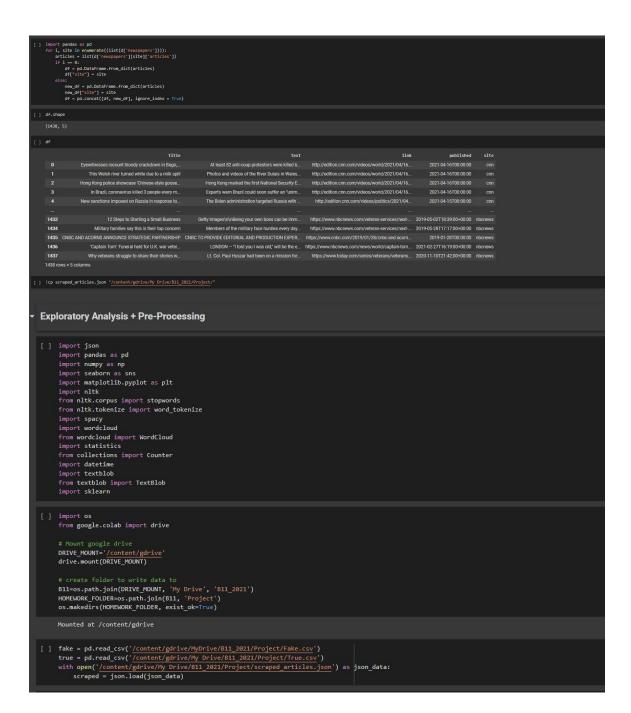
IMPLEMENTATION

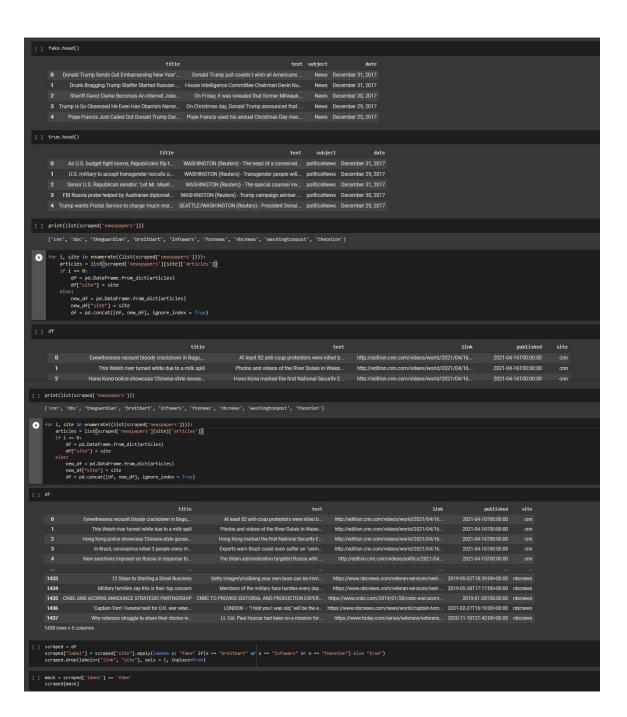


```
[ ] dictionary = {
      "cnn": {
        "link": "http://edition.cnn.com/"
      "bbc": {
        "rss": "http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/rss.xml",
        "link": "http://www.bbc.com/"
      "theguardian": {
        "rss": "https://www.theguardian.com/uk/rss",
        "link": "https://www.theguardian.com/international"
      },
      "breitbart": {
        "link": "http://www.breitbart.com/"
      "infowars": {
        "link": "https://www.infowars.com/"
        "link": "http://www.foxnews.com/"
      "nbcnews": {
        "link": "http://www.nbcnews.com/"
      },
      "washingtonpost": {
        "rss": "http://feeds.washingtonpost.com/rss/world",
        "link": "https://www.washingtonpost.com/"
      "theonion": {
        "link": "http://www.theonion.com/"
```

```
[ ] import feedparser as fp
    import newspaper
    from newspaper import Article
    from datetime import datetime
    LIMIT = 14500
    data = \{\}
    data['newspapers'] = {}
    with open('NewsPapers.json') as data_file:
       companies = json.load(data_file)
    count = 1
    for company, value in companies.items():
           d = fp.parse(value['rss'])
           print("Downloading articles from ", company)
           newsPaper = {
              "rss": value['rss'],
"link": value['link'],
             for entry in d.entries:
                if hasattr(entry, 'published'):
                     if count > LIMIT:
                        break
                     article = {}
                     article['link'] = entry.link
                     date = entry.published_parsed
                     article['published'] = datetime.fromtimestamp(mktime(date)).isoformat()
                        content = Article(entry.link)
                        content.download()
                        content.parse()
                     except Exception as e:
                        # the next article.
                        print(e)
                        print("continuing...")
                     article['title'] = content.title
                     article['text'] = content.text
                     newsPaper['articles'].append(article)
                     print(count, "articles downloaded from", company, ", url: ", entry.link)
                     count = count + 1
                             COURT = COURT + T
               else:
                    # This is the fallback method if a RSS-feed link is not provided.
                    # It uses the python newspaper library to extract articles
                    print("Building site for ", company)
                    paper = newspaper.build(value['link'], memoize_articles=False)
                   newsPaper = {
                        "link": value['link'],
                        "articles": []
```

```
noneTypeCount = 0
          for content in paper.articles:
               if count > LIMIT:
                   content.download()
                   content.parse()
               except Exception as e:
                  print(e)
                    print("continuing...")
              # Again, for consistency, if there is no found publish date the article will be skipped.
# After 10 downloaded articles from the same newspaper without publish date, the company will be skipped.
               if content.publish_date is None:
                   print(count, " Article has date of type None...")
                    noneTypeCount = noneTypeCount + 1
                    if noneTypeCount > 100:
                        print("Too many noneType dates, aborting...")
noneTypeCount = 0
                         break
                   count = count + 1
              article = {}
article['title'] = content.title
              article['text'] = content.text
article['link'] = content.url
article['published'] = content.publish_date.isoformat()
newsPaper['articles'].append(article)
              print(count, "articles downloaded from", company, " using newspaper,
count = count + 1
               noneTypeCount = 0
    count = 1
    data['newspapers'][company] = newsPaper
     with open('scraped_articles.json', 'w') as outfile:
         json.dump(data, outfile)
except Exception as e: print(e)
Building site for cnn
1 Article has date of type None...
2 Article has date of type None...
3 Article has date of type None...
```





```
[ ] #Create column with labels
fake["label"] = "fake"
true["label"] = "true"
                                                                                                      text subject
                                                                                                                                       date label

    1
    U.S. military to accept transgender recruits o...
    WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Transgender people will...
    politicsNews
    December 29, 2017
    true

    2
    Senior U.S. Republican senator: Let Mr. Muell...
    WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The special counsel inv...
    politicsNews
    December 31, 2017
    true

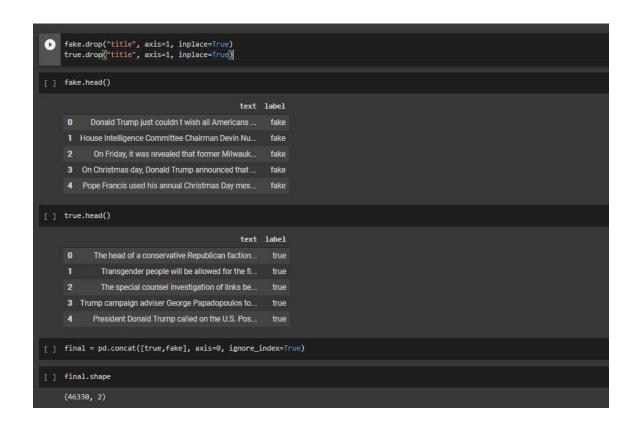
    3
    FBI Russia probe helped by Australian diplomat...
    WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Trump campaign adviser...
    politicsNews
    December 30, 2017
    true

       4 Trump wants Postal Service to charge 'much mor... SEATTLE/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donal... politicsNews December 29, 2017 true
       1 Drunk Bragging Trump Staffer Started Russian ... House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nu... News December 31, 2017 fake

    3 Trump Is So Obsessed He Even Has Obama's Name...
    On Christmas day, Donald Trump announced that ...
    News December 29, 2017
    fake

    4 Pope Francis Just Called Out Donald Trump Dur...
    Pope Francis used his annual Christmas Day mes...
    News December 25, 2017
    fake

       print (fake.shape)
       print (true.shape)
       print (scraped.shape)
[ ] scraped["published"] = scraped["published"].apply(lambda x: x[0:10])
        scraped["published"] = scraped["published"].apply(pd.to_datetime)
        print (fake["subject"].unique())
        print (true["subject"].unique())
        ['News' 'politics' 'Government News' 'left-news' 'US_News' 'Middle-east']
        ['politicsNews' 'worldnews']
[ ] fake.drop("subject", axis=1, inplace=True)
        true.drop("subject", axis=1, inplace=True)
       scraped.rename(columns={"published": "date"}, inplace=True)
scraped_f = scraped[scraped["label"] == "fake"]
       fake = pd.concat([fake,scraped_f], axis=0, ignore_index=True)
       scraped_t = scraped[scraped["label"] == "true"]
       true = pd.concat([true,scraped_t], axis=0, ignore_index=True)
[ ] #Remove articles with only pictures / no text
       true = true[true["text"] != ""]
        fake = fake[fake["text"] != ""]
        print(fake.shape)
        print(true.shape)
```



```
[ ] from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
         from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
         from sklearn.linear_model import PassiveAggressiveClassifier
         from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, confusion_matrix
    [ ] x = final['text']
         y = final['label']
                   The head of a conservative Republican faction...
                   Transgender people will be allowed for the fi...
                   The special counsel investigation of links be...
                   Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos to...
                   President Donald Trump called on the U.S. Pos...
         46325
                  Have an important tip? Let us know. Email us h...
                  Keep up to date with our latest:\n\nHave an im...
         46327
                  Have an important tip? Let us know. Email us h...
         46328
                  Chaz Neal, a prominent BLM activist in Minneso...
                  Have an important tip? Let us know. Email us h...
         46329
         Name: text, Length: 46330, dtype: object
                  true
                  true
                  true
                  true
                  ...
fake
         46325
         46326
                  fake
         46327
                  fake
         46328
                  fake
         46329
                  fake
         Name: label, Length: 46330, dtype: object
    [ ] x_train,x_test,y_train,y_test = train_test_split(x,y,test_size=0.2,random_state=0)
         y_train
[[4791 73]
[ 85 4317]]
```

RESULTS

```
Binomial Logistic Regression
[ ] from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
        1r = LogisticRegression()
        lr.fit(tfid_x_train,y_train)
       LogisticRegression(C=1.0, class_weight=None, dual=False, fit_intercept=True, intercept_scaling=1, 11_ratio=None, max_iter=100, multi_class='auto', n_jobs=None, penalty='12', random_state=None, solver='lbfgs', tol=0.0001, verbose=0, warm_start=False)
[ ] y_pred_lr = lr.predict(tfid_x_test)
        score = accuracy_score(y_test,y_pred_lr)
print(f'Accuracy: {round(score*100,2)}%')
        Accuracy: 96.84%
[ ] cf = confusion_matrix(y_test,y_pred_lr, labels=['fake','true'])
        print(cf)
        [[4718 146]
[ 147 4255]]
Support Vector Machines
[ ] from sklearn.svm import SVC
        #and because linear has the lowest risk of overfitting
svc = SVC(kernel='linear', random_state=1)
svc.fit(tfid_x_train,y_train)
       SVC(C=1.0, break_ties=False, cache_size=200, class_weight=None, coef0=0.0, decision_function_shape='ovr', degree=3, gamma='scale', kernele'linear', max_iter=-1, probability=False, random_state=1, shrinking=True, tol=0.001, verbose=False)
        score = accuracy_score(y_test,y_pred_svm)
print(f'Accuracy: {round(score*100,2)}%')
```

CONCLUSION

With social media increasingly prevalent, more and more people are receiving news from social media rather than traditional news media. Online networking has since been used to disseminate misleading news, which has had significant adverse effects on individual consumers and broader community. In this paper, we discussed the problem of fake news by combining two separate approaches for greater accuracy in identifying false news. Based on the findings discussed above, the results of this analysis indicate that a Fake News Classifier can detect false news with 96% accuracy.

SCOPE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

There is scope for the future development of this project. Computer technology keeps finding new methods and technologies on a day to day basis. It is dynamic and not static. The skills which are prominent today will become obsolete in a few days. To keep pace with the technical developments, the system may be additionally improved. So, it is not concluded.

Further extensions to this system can be made required with minor modifications. It can be developed for wearable devices which will be much more easier. Yet it will improve with further augmentations. Augmentations can be done effectually. We can even apprise the same with further changes and can be integrated with minimal alteration. Thus the project is flexible and can be improved at any time with more advanced features.

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