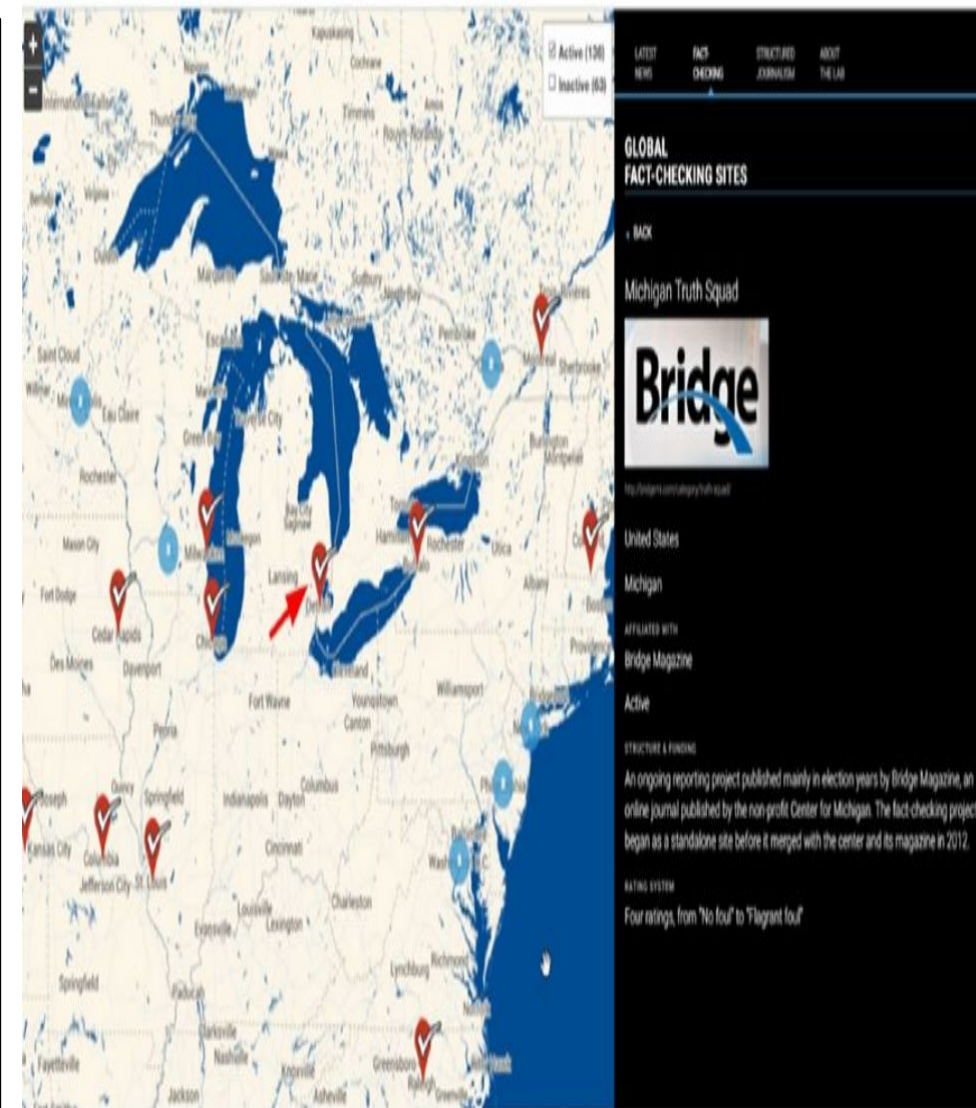


# **FAKE NEWS DETECTION**

- ✓ In today's digital age, everything is connected online, and a large number of people **receive their news using social media sites**, where **anyone can post anything using a fake identity**.
- ✓ In addition, there are many **unreliable news sites that announce news without investigating its source** accurately.
- ✓ For instance, any **malicious actor can spread misleading news for commercial gain, for propaganda purposes, or to mislead people about something**. Such false news can spread instantly because of the **simplicity of sharing information across different social media platforms** and, consequently, through the entire Internet.
- ✓ **Detecting fake news has become a hot topic today and attracts huge attention.** Major social platforms—like **Twitter and Facebook**—have **promised their users they will find a solution to stop or at least decrease the harm of fake news**.
- ✓ Researchers continue in this field with emphasis on **developing artificial intelligence solutions** (such as **machine learning and natural language processing**) to combat fake news.

- ✓ To help sort true information from false information, you should use the following checklist for investigating suspicious news:-
  - ✓ 1. Read the **entire article or piece of information first**. Do not believe anything **until you review its source**.
  - ✓ 2. Read the **source of the news/information**.
  - ✓ 3. If the **source comes from a credible or well-known website** (for example, a global well-known news agency), do the following:-
    - ✓ a. **Go to the source of the news to see whether the same information is presented on its site**. For example, if a piece of news is attributed to Reuters (<https://www.reuters.com>), check its website to see whether the same information exists there.
  - ✓ 4. If the **information comes from an unknown source**, you need to **conduct an online search to see who else has published the same news**.
    - ✓ a. If a **credible and well-known website published the same story** from the same source, it is highly likely to be a true story.
    - ✓ b. Otherwise, you need to check more about the issue or decline to use the information.

- ✓ Do not trust information published on social sites only. Instead, conduct an online search to see whether the same news has been published elsewhere. If you find that this news is false, make sure to report it to the site operators (for example, **Facebook allows its users to report posts for review**).
- ✓ You should read news, articles, and other content only on reputable websites. **Less known sites should be investigated thoroughly before considering their news as valid.**
- ✓ There are many sites online that help you to figure out whether something is false news/information. The following are the most important ones:-
  - ✓ Snopes (<https://www.snopes.com>) **discovers false news, stories, and urban legends and researches/validates rumours** to see whether they are true.
  - ✓ Hoaxy (<https://hoaxy.iuni.iu.edu>) **checks the spread of false claims** (like a hoax, rumor, satire, or news report) across social media sites. The site derives its results from **reputable fact-checking organizations to return the most accurate results.**
  - ✓ FactCheck ([www.factcheck.org/fake-news](http://www.factcheck.org/fake-news)) is **partnered with Facebook to help identify and label fake news reported by its users.** It also monitors different media for the false information covering a wide range of topics like **health, science, and hoaxes spread through spam e-mails.**
  - ✓ <https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking> **gives a map of global fact-checking sites** (see Figure on the right).



reporterslab.org/fact-checking showing a global of fact-checking sites around the world

- ✓ [www.truthorfiction.com](http://www.truthorfiction.com) **discovers fake news in different topics such as politics, nature, health, space, crime, police and terrorism**, and so on.
- ✓ Hoax-Slayer ([www.hoax-slayer.com](http://www.hoax-slayer.com)) **focuses on e-mail scams and social media hoaxes**.
- ✓ Verification Handbook (<http://verificationhandbook.com>) is a definitive guide to **verifying digital content for emergency coverage available in different languages**.
- ✓ Verification Junkie (<http://verificationjunkie.com>) is a **directory of tools for verifying, fact checking, and assessing the validity of eyewitness reports** and user self-published content online.
- ✓ <https://citizenevidence.org> has tools and lessons to **teach people how to authenticate user-generated online contents**. It is managed by Amnesty International.
- ✓ InVID Verification Plugin ([www.invid-project.eu/tools-andservices/invid-verification-plugin](http://www.invid-project.eu/tools-andservices/invid-verification-plugin)) supports both Mozilla Firefox and Chrome. This is a tool created by the InVID European project to **help journalists verify content on social networks**.

## DATA LEAK INFORMATION

- ✓ Data leaks—sometimes called data breaches—are the **intentional or unintentional release of confidential information to the public.**
- ✓ Leaks mainly occur because of **black hat hacker attacks against computerized systems or by disgruntled employees** who may uncover secret information about their organizations.
- ✓ Data leaks can include **credit card information, PII, health information of patients, financial information, e-mail/social site usernames and passwords, trade secrets, corporations plans and future works, intellectual property information, and military information** belonging to governments.
- ✓ The following are the two most popular official data leak repositories online:-
  - ✓ WikiLeaks (<https://wikileaks.org>)
  - ✓ Cryptome (<https://cryptome.org>)
  - ✓ Offshore Leaks (<https://offshoreleaks.icij.org>)