Email Classification GenAI Solution



Below is a concise overview addressing the first two deliverables.

The third delivery (Slide Presentation) can be found under the slides folder in the repository of this project as well as a simple grasp of the project's code and structure: https://github.com/ShlomoVolosky/email-classification

Further on this document, you will find a comprehensive, in-depth explanation of the selected solution and the methods employed to fulfill the task.

Deliverable 1: Output of the Required Development

What the Output Looks like:

- 1. Trained Model(s):
 - A multilingual model (English and Hebrew, for example bert-base-multilingual-cased or xlm-roberta-base) fine-tuned on the company's email dataset.
 - Model artifacts include:
 - (1) pytorch model.bin: model's weights file.
 - (2) config.json
 - (3) tokeniker file (for example vocab.txt)
- 2. Web-based (or CLI-based) Classifier Application:
 - A local Flask (or Streamlit) application that can:
 - (1) Accept Subject and Body of an email (in English or Hebrew).
 - (2) Output the Category (for example: HR, Finance, IT Support).
 - (3) Output the Priority level (High, Medium, Low)
 - (4) Optionally allow feedback from the user to confirm or correct the classification.
- 3. (Optional) RAG / Agentic AI Extension:
 - If LangChain / LangGraph or any other retrieval mechanism have been integrated, the user would have:
 - (1) A basic retrieval system (using a Vector DB, for example FAISS or Pinecone) loaded with relevant domain docs.
 - (2) A script or function (an agent) in the code to handle RAG-based lookups.
- 4. Evaluation Report:
 - Performance metrics (accuracy, precision, recall, F1) on a held-out test set.

In short, the main deliverable is a working pipeline and interface that shows how an email's subject and body get automatically classified and prioritized with optional user feedback.

Deliverable 2: Code for the Development, Organized and Versioned by Stages

Structure of the project's directory:

```
---email-classification
  .gitignore
  Dockerfile
  LICENSE
  README.md
  requirements.txt
 -data
  +---processed
  \---raw
  images
      email_classification.jpg
--model_output
      config.json
      encoder.json
      merges.txt
      pytorch_model.bin
      special_tokens_map.json
      tokenizer_config.json
      vocab.txt
 -notebooks
      01_data_preparation.ipynb
      02_model_finetuning.ipynb
      03_evaluation.ipynb
 -slides
      EmailClassification_GenAISolution.docx
      EmailClassification_Presentation.pptx
 -src
      agent.py
      app.py
      feedback.py
      utils.py
       _init__.py
    --templates
          index.html
```

Stage 1: Data Collection and Preparation:

Steps:

- (1) Load raw email CSV / JSON datasets into a Pandas DataFrame,
- (2) Clean the text (remove HTML, URLs, special characters),

- (3) (Optional) Identify language (if for example both Hebrew and English are in the same dataset and the user wants to label them),
- (4) Split into train/test sets in a balanced manner.

Stage 2: Model Training and Fine-Tunning:

Steps:

- (1) Install and import Hugging Face transformers and datasets,
- (2) Load the multilingual model and tokenizer,
- (3) Prepare the dataset for tokenization and label alignment,
- (4) Fine-tune for category classification; optionally multi-task for priority or train a separate model.
- (5) Save the trained model artifacts in model output/.

Stage 3: Evaluation:

Steps:

- (1) Evaluate on the test set.
- (2) Display accuracy, precision, recall, F1.
- (3) (Optional) Show a confusion matrix.

Stage 4: UI/Chatbot and Feedback Loop:

Steps:

- (1) Create src/app.py:
 - A Flask/Streamlit app that loads the saved model and provides a web form for email text.
 - Returns the predicted category and/or priority.
 - Incorporates a feedback function (thumbs up/down or correct labels).

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- (2) Create src/feedback.py:
 - This is meant to handle storing user feedback in a local SQLite DB or a cloud-based database.
- (3) (Optional) Create src/agent.py:
 - If implementing RAG or agentic AI via LangChain or LangGraph.

Why These Methods Were Chosen:

- (1) Multilingual Transformer Models (mBERT / XLM-R): These models handle text from multiple languages with minimal separate engineering work. They also leverage massive pretrained datasets, reducing the labeled data requirement.
- (2) NLP Preprocessing (NLTK / Regex / Potential Hebrew Tools): Basic text cleanup is essential for robust input to the model. NLTK is a mature library for tokenization, although advanced Hebrew tokenization might need specialized libraries (for example HebrewNLP can be found at: https://discuss.huggingface.co/t/hebrew-nlp-introduction/4095) or rely on the transformer's build-in tokenizer.
- (3) Feedback Loop / Human-in-the-Loop: Real-world data can differ from training data. Continual feedback ensures the model evolves and correct biases.
- (4) Agentic AI / RAG: For advanced capabilities like referencing internal documents or providing explainable answers. Future-proofs the system so that it can reference additional context on the fly.
- (5) Cloud Deployment (GCP, Azure, AWS): Offers scalable, reliable infrastructure with integrated CI/CD, managed services (compute, data storage, APIs), and ease of real-time integration (Pub/Sub, Event Hubs, etc.).
- (6) UI / Chatbot: Provides an intuitive interface for non-technical users. Enhancing adoption and makes the classification results easily actionable.

In-depth Implementation:

1. Data Collection and Preparation:

- (1.1) Data Sources:
 - Historical emails (in Hebrew and English) exported from Gmail / Outlook or internal email servers.
 - Labeled with categories (HR, Finance, etc.) and priority levels (High, Medium, Low).
- (1.2) Data Cleaning (NLP Preprocessing).
- (1.3) Tokenization and Multi-lingual Handling: Possibly store language tags in the dataset (English / Hebrew) to let the model handle domain adaptation.
- (1.4) Train /Test Split and Balancing: stratify can ensure a balanced representation in train/test.

2. Model Training and Fine-Tuning:

The code examples provided can be done locally on a beefy machine with GPU, or in the cloud (using for example, Vertex AI, Azure ML, or some local server with GPU).

3. RAG / Agentic AI Integration:

For advanced use cases, we could add a Retrieval Augmented Generation pipeline or an agent:

- (3.1) To store domain-specific documents (for example, department guidelines, FAQ, priority rules) in a vector store (for example, FAISS, Pinecone).
- (3.2) LangChain / LangGraph can be used to build a pipeline:
- An agent queries the vector store for relevant documents based on the email's content (for example, if the user asks, "Why was this classified as HR?").
- The language model can incorporate these documents in the reasoning process.
- This approach can provide explanations or allow for more interactive Q&A about the classification logic.

4. UI / Chatbot Development:

- (4.1) Local Developer Testing:
- A simple console or Flask / Streamlit app that runs on localhost.
- Allows the data scientist/engineer to quickly test classification on sample emails.
- (4.2) User Acceptance Testing (UAT) UI:
- Include feedback functionality. For example, after classification, the UI can ask: "Did I predict correctly?"
 - This feedback is logged and used later for retraining.
 - (4.3) Production UI / Chatbot:
- Could be more polished with a React/Angular front-end, or integrated with Microsoft Teams, Slack, or an internal chat platform.
- Additional features could include advanced search across classified emails, role-based access control (for overriding classifications), integration with enterprise SSO (Azure AD, Google Workspace).

5. Human-in-the-Loop and Active Learning:

(5.1) Store User Feedback: Each time a user corrects a classification, log (email_id, user_label, user_priority, model_prediction, timestamp), then store in a central DB (for example, PostgreSQL, MongoDB).

(5.2) Retraining Pipeline:

- On a scheduled basis (daily, weekly) or on-demand, incorporating new labeled data into the training set.
- Use Active Learning strategies to specifically ask humans about emails that the model found uncertain.

(5.3) Versioning:

- Maintain versioned checkpoints of the model.
- Compare performance metrics across versions.

6. Integration with Enterprise Email Systems:

(6.1) Gmail:

- Use the Gmail API to fetch incoming messages in real-time or via periodic polling.
- For real-time events, push notifications can be set to a webhook endpoint (for example will need a GCP Pub/Sub subscription).
 - (6.2) Outlook (Microsoft 365):
 - Use the Microsoft Graph API or another IMAP approach.
 - Also needs to subscribe to incoming email events.
 - (6.3) Workflow example:
 - Kafka receives an event with the email's metadata.
- A microservice calls the classification model endpoint to get the predicted category and priority.
- The microservice updates metadata in the email system or writes it to a DB or user interface.

7. Deployment and Cloud Integration:

(7.1) Local Docker:

- Build a Docker image containing the model, code and environment.

- Test locally (Flask/Streamlit, model interface, Postman requests).
- (7.2) Deploy Docker Image to Cloud:
- GCP (Cloud Run, GKE Kubernetes cluster or Vertex AI Endpoint).
- Azure (Azure Container Instances, Azure Kubernetes Service, Azure App Service).
- Leverage large-scale interface with GPU/TPU.
- (7.3) Real-Time Pipeline with Kafka:
- Producers: Email ingestion service or an Outlook/Gmail connector.
- Consumers: A microservice that classifies emails by calling the model.
- Write results to a database or pass them downstream (for example, to a user UI, notifications).
 - (7.4) Real-Time Pipeline with Apache Flink:
 - Streaming classification at scale.
 - Inference calls embeddings or another advanced pipeline inside a Flink job.
- Flink's stateful stream processing can handle large throughput with sub-second latency.
 - (7.5) Scheduling and Workflow Orchestration with Airflow:
- Airflow DAG runs daily, pulling new labeled feedback data, and re-tunes the model if certain thresholds are met.
- After training, it can automatically push the new model artifact to a registry (for example, an S3 bucket, GCS bucker, Azure Blon) and trigger a CI/CD pipeline to roll out updates.