SOCIAL MEDIA FAKE NEWS DETECTOR

ABSTRACT

Social media posts tend to form biased opinions and spread fake news which might instigate people. The inability of people to create an internal filter against their own bias and question the credibility of the news source has caused false information to plague modern society and is slowly leading to a world with only polarizing opinions. The extensive spread of fake news has the potential for extremely negative impacts on individuals and society. Fake news is intentionally written to mislead readers to believe false information, which makes it difficult to detect; therefore, there is a need to include auxiliary information, such as multiple information sources, to help make a determination.

Social media fake news detector is a browser extension that will be developed for social media platforms and integrated into it, because a large number of celebrities and influential people from different profession use it as a tool to convey their thoughts and opinions. It is a web API (Application Programming Interface) that allows users to gain a broader perspective on news items and events and develop biased opinions. It provides with a global point of view by extracting news articles and related information using entity extraction and sentiment analysis.

It makes use of Social Media API and News API to gather news articles. Natural Language Processing using machine learning toolkit performs entity extraction from social media posts to search for news articles from reliable sources. Python client libraries are used to make calls to the Natural Language API. After the entity extraction, sentiment analysis is performed on the information obtained to select articles which have a different perspective from the social media post. This helps the users broaden their perspective and understand the proper context and verify by themselves what is right and what is wrong.

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