

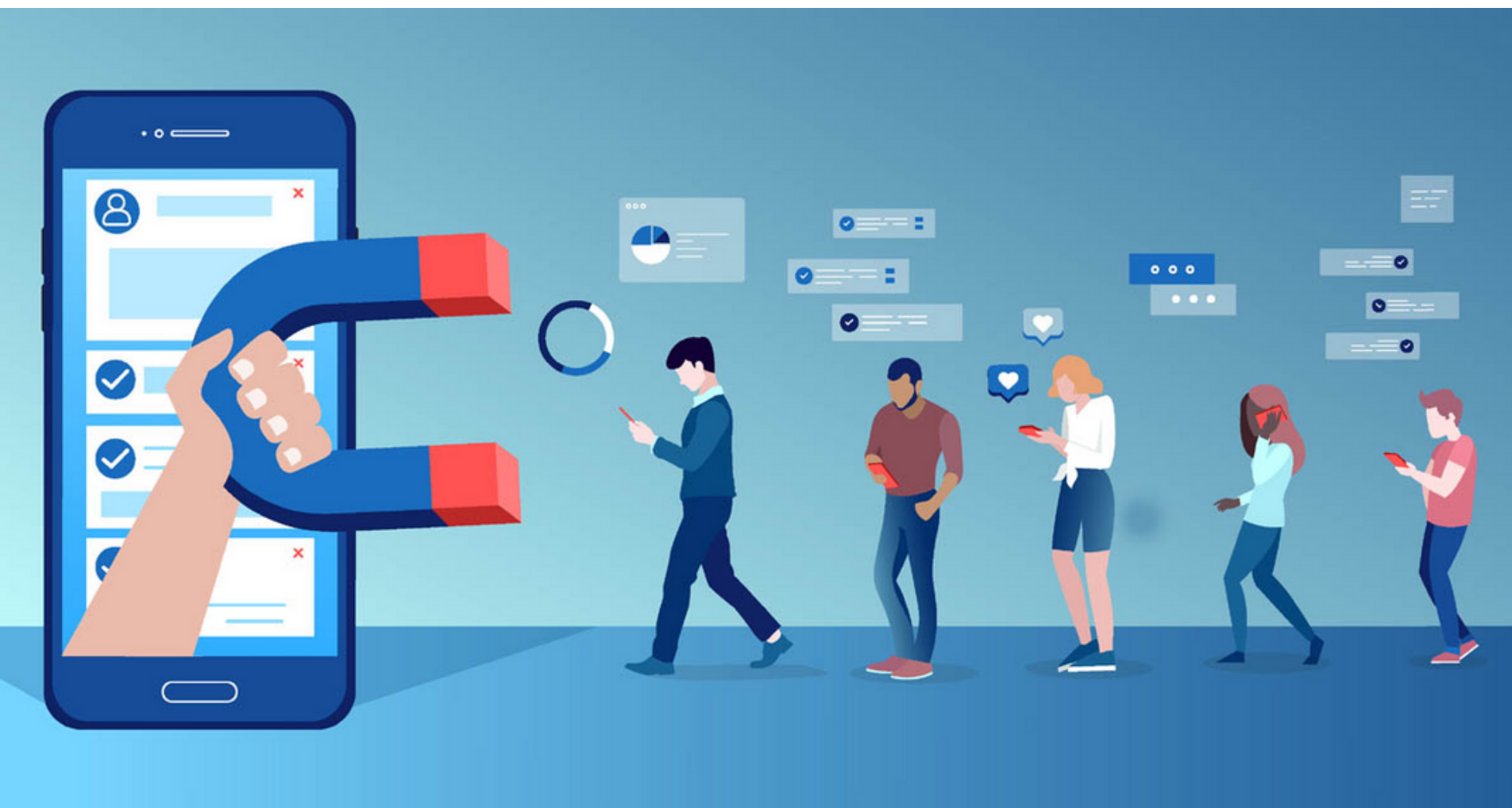
Project Proposal

CS - F315 ICTD

Project Title 8

Topic:

Social media platforms have become a breeding ground for misinformation and disinformation.



The Problem

- In this digital age, when most of us have access to all of the human knowledge at our fingertips, most of us are wrong a lot of the time.
- Multiple contradicting sources, lack of awareness about whom to trust.
- This has led to social media becoming a breeding ground for rampant misinformation.



Our Motivation

To help users to make an informed decision to trust online information, instead of blindly believing in whatever they see online. Or, at the very least motivate them to think critically about the text they read online.

Because you cannot expect people to make the right choice unless they are well informed.

Solution

FACT CHECKING



Use Google Fact
Checking API to
determine the veracity
of a piece of
information.
(flexible)

FILTERING



Use Global keyword
based filters to flag
certain posts and
present the user with
information from a
trusted source.

PROVIDE METRICS



Use metrics like
history of the source,
number of forwards,
trends etc.

Literature Survey

Predicting Factuality of Reporting and Bias of News Media Sources

Ramy Baly¹ , Georgi Karadzhov³ , Dimitar Alexandrov³ , James Glass¹ , Preslav Nakov² ¹MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MA, USA
²Qatar Computing Research Institute, HBKU, Qatar; ³Sofia University, Bulgaria

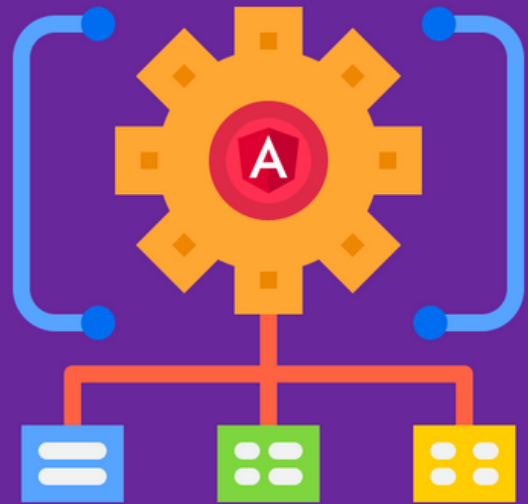
CoVerifi: A COVID-19 news verification system

Online Soc Netw Media. 2021 Mar; 22



BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm ideas to find precise ways to evaluate a given information.



DEVELOP

Develop a user-friendly application which will implement these metrics.



TEST

Test the application with a number of users and add/modify features based on the feedback.

General steps

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Sub Tasks

1. Making an application

An application that allows the users to input a search query(a fact that they would like to check), and the app uses fact check API to get a rough idea of the veracity of the fact. It also compiles together various metrics like how many times it has been forwarded, the credibility of the source etc.

Sub Tasks

2.Creating a database of keywords

Some keywords are more trustworthy than others. The application will extract keywords from the facts that the users check and maintain a record of how often the facts with those keywords turn out true.

Sub Tasks

3.Measuring a shift in user's awareness

Conducting a survey to measure user awareness. One potential method could be giving the users a number of keywords, and asking the users how likely they would be to trust a headline with that keyword.

The result of this survey will then be compared to the findings made by the app to measure quantitatively the shift in people's behaviour.

Proposed timeline

(Tentative and flexible)

SEPT - 4TH WEEK

Research and Review
the various ways to
use APIs to fact check
and extract keywords.

NOV - 1ST WEEK

Develop the application
keeping in mind the needs
of the user. Develop the
backend system to
support the application.

NOV - 4TH WEEK

Conduct user surveys
on the application and
backtrack to step 2, to
improve the
application.

End Deliverables

- A prototype application that allows fact-checking.
- Results of the survey measuring the shift in user behaviour.

The team

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