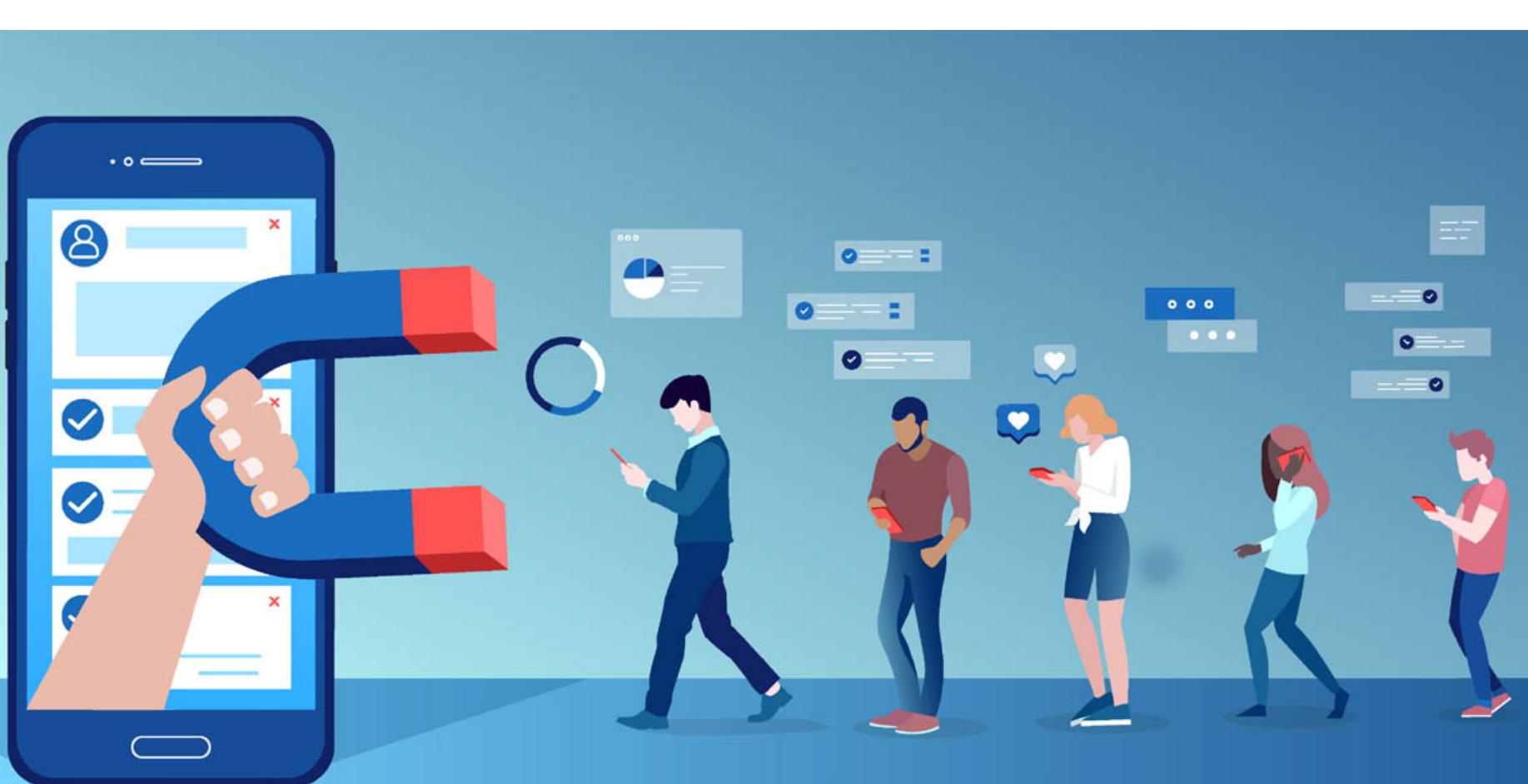


# Mid-term Progress Report

## CS - F315 ICTD



## 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.



# 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.

# 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.

# Progress so far

## The Application

The screenshot shows the 'Facts Chamber' application. At the top, it says 'Search for trending topics here' with a magnifying glass icon. Below that, under 'Trending Topics, example Monkey', there are four statements with progress bars:

Statement	Percentage
Monkeys are mammals	99%
Monkeys are real	99%
Monkeys are extinct	03%
Monkeys like bananas	50%

A yellow button at the bottom left says 'Take quiz'.

We decided that the application will have a gamified approach to interact with users as it is one of the most effective approaches to get people's attention, which is critical to help them overcome in case they are misinformed on the topic. The user will first enter a topic, then they will be shown various statements constructed using data from tweets.

# Progress so far

## The Application

When the user clicks on one of the statements, they will be presented with a quiz as shown in the screenshot here. They must pick one of the two options. One of the option contains a factually inaccurate statement and the user must try to pick the option containing the more accurate statement.

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface. At the top, the title "Relevant or Irrelevant?" is displayed in large, bold, yellow text. Below the title, a subtitle reads "Look up trending topics and we'll tell you how much truth they carry". A blue button labeled "Click Here" is located at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a text input field with the placeholder "Choose what you think is factually accurate". Two options are listed in a scrollable list: "Monkeys have been extinct for over 3 years" and "Monkeys are mammals". Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom right of the screen.

Choose what you think  
is factually accurate

Monkeys have been  
extinct for over 3 years

Monkeys are mammals

Click Here

# Progress so far

## The Application

After they pick the option, the correct statement will be highlighted in green and the misleading statement will be shown in red. Now they can proceed to check how aware they are about the same topic or proceed to search for a different topic as well.

### Relevant or Irrelevant?

Look up trending topics  
and we'll tell you how  
much truth they carry

Click Here

Choose what you think  
is factually accurate

Monkeys have been  
extinct for over 3 years

Monkeys are mammals



# Progress so far

## Research and Review

We decided to focus on twitter as it is one of the hottest breeding grounds of misinformation spread by fake experts. We studied the **Twitter API v2** and understood how to fetch tweet data from it. We also went through similar projects that have been done in the past to get some ideas and also to see how we can improve upon them in our product.

# End Deliverables

- To develop a user-friendly frontend application that allows fact-checking.
- To maintain a database of keywords and a history of facts.
- Results of the survey measuring the shift in user behaviour.

# Upcoming Plans

## **More Features to the application**

We have a working UI for the application but we plan to spend some more time on it to add some quality of life features. Some of them include:

- A points system for users to track how many answers they got right.
- A "sources" panel showing reliable and credible sources about the topic.

# Upcoming Plans

## User Survey

- We plan to conduct a public survey where users will be able to test the application
- We will use the data collected for the research part of the project.
- We will also provide means so users can report any bugs in the application and we will try to fix those if there are any.

# The team

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