SMS Spam Detection System - Quick Start Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the SMS Spam Detection System! This guide will walk you through the steps to install, set up, and use the system to detect spam text messages. The system uses machine learning to identify potentially unwanted messages with high accuracy.

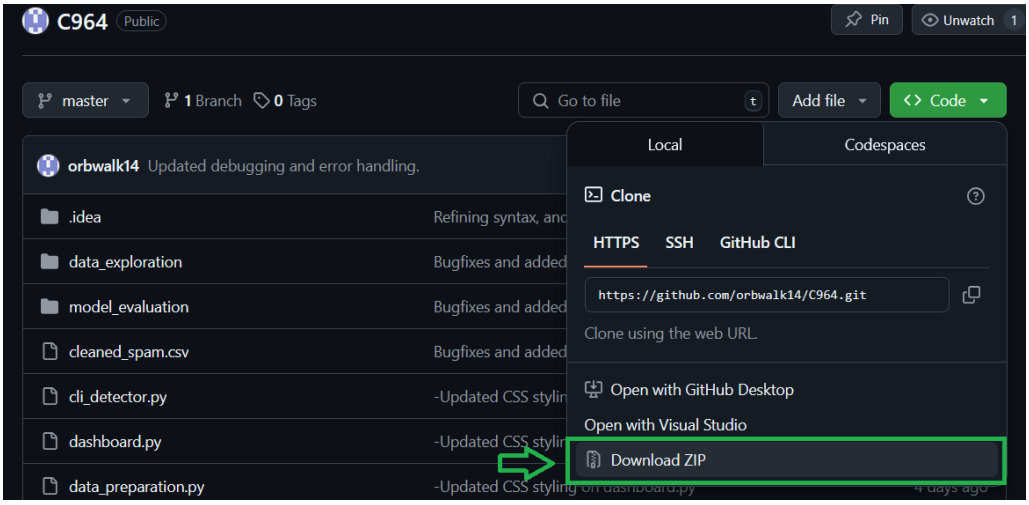
Requirements

- Minimum 4GB RAM
- 500MB of disk space
- Operating System: Windows, macOS, or Linux
- Python: https://www.python.org/downloads/
- Pip: https://packaging.python.org/en/latest/tutorials/installing-packages/
- Project ZIP file: C964

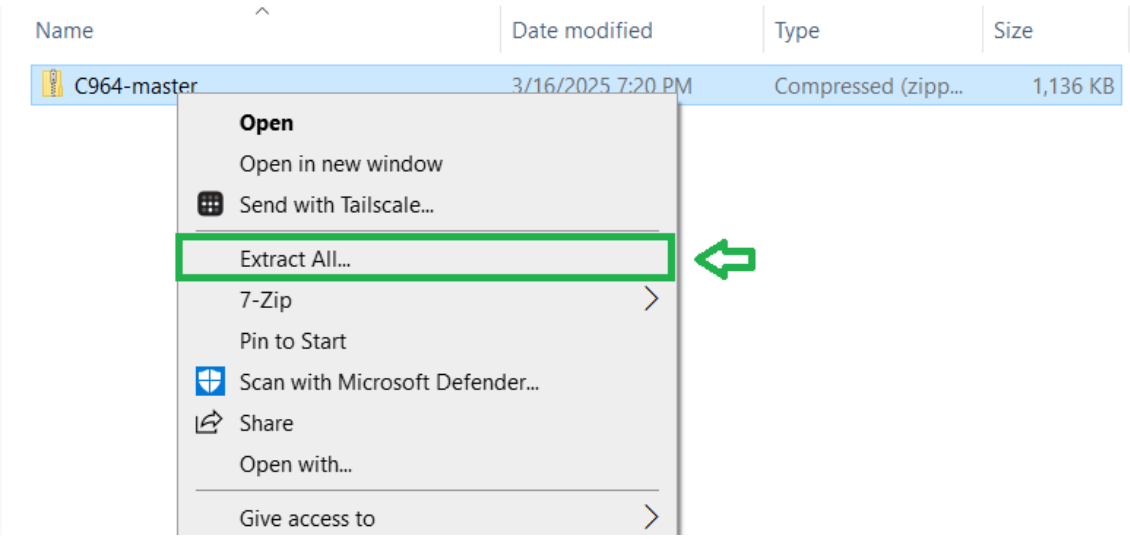
Installation:

To start you will need the program files, download the attached zip file titled ‘C964’ to a directory of your choosing.

The ZIP file can also be accessed via GitHub at the address: https://github.com/orbwalk14/C964, find and click the green button labeled ‘code’ and select ‘Download ZIP’.



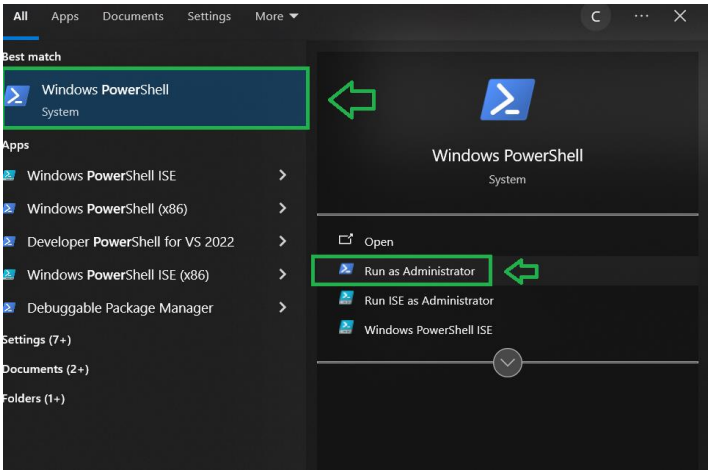
Once you have downloaded your zip file, open your file explorer and find where you have downloaded your file. Right click the file then select ‘Extract All…’ and follow the prompt to extract the file to your desired location (IMPORTANT: Please make a note of the path to your files).



You now have the required files to showcase the technology! For the next section we will be running the program, for this guide I will be using the Windows operating system but will include notes on how the instructions differ from other operating systems.

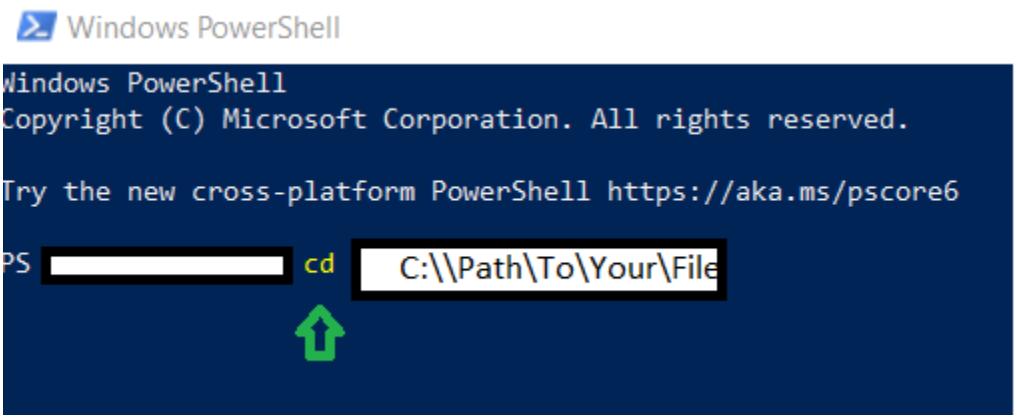
Preparing your environment:

To begin the process of preparing your environment, open a PowerShell window with administrator privileges.

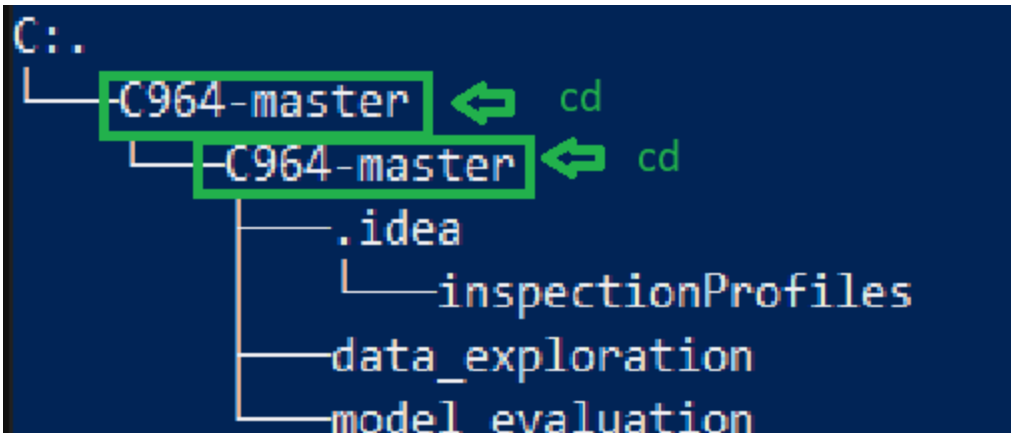


(Open the Terminal application in Linux or MacOS, ensure you are logged in as a user with administrative privileges).

Use the command ‘cd’ (change directory), to navigate to the path of where you unzipped your project files.



You are now at the top-level directory of the program files; to prepare the environment to run the program, we must go deeper into the files. Use the ‘cd’ command again to navigate down two levels to get to where the python files are.



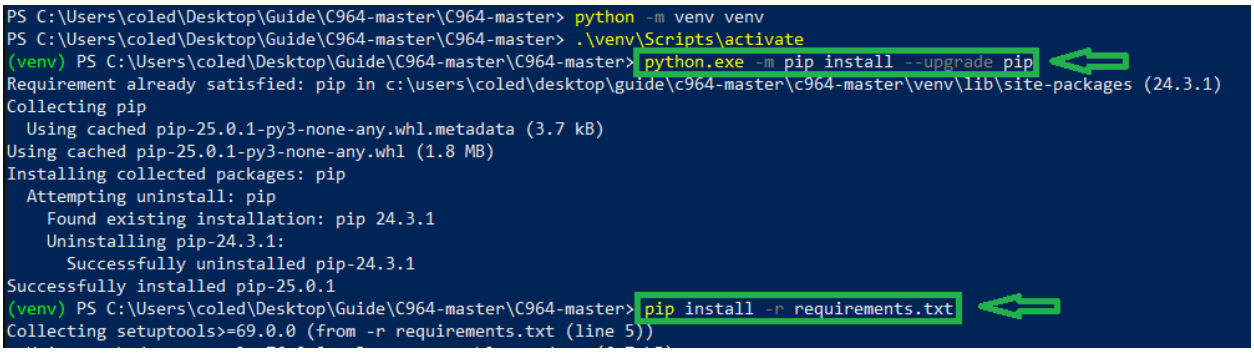

```
PS [redacted]> cd C964-master
PS [redacted]\C964-master> cd C964-master
PS [redacted]\C964-master\C964-master> ls


    Directory: C:[redacted]C964-master\C964-master


Mode                 LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                 -------------         ------ ----
d-----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM                .idea
d-----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM                data_exploration
d-----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM                model_evaluation
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM         760562 cleaned_spam.csv
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          10451 cli_detector.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          39134 dashboard.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          15607 data_preparation.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM            733 inspect_model.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          51237 model_evaluation.png
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          18615 model_training.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM            485 requirements.txt
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          21996 sms_spam_detector.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM         481090 spam.csv
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          14470 spam_detector.log
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          14179 test_script.py
-a----         3/16/2025   7:29 PM          12431 train_and_save.py


PS C:\[redacted]C964-master\C964-master>
```

Next, we must create and activate a virtual environment for our program to run in, think of this like preparing a stage for our program to perform on.

1. python –m venv venv
2. .\venv\Scripts\activate
3. On macOS/Linux: source venv/bin/activate
4. Ensure you see the green '(venv)' tag on your terminal, this signifies you have correctly setup your virtual environment.
5. 

The last step for preparing the environment is making sure the program has all packages it requires downloaded; this requires you to run two commands. Be sure to type the commands exactly as they are presented here.

1. Ensure Pip is up to date: python.exe -m pip install --upgrade pip
2. Download requirements.txt: pip install -r requirements.txt

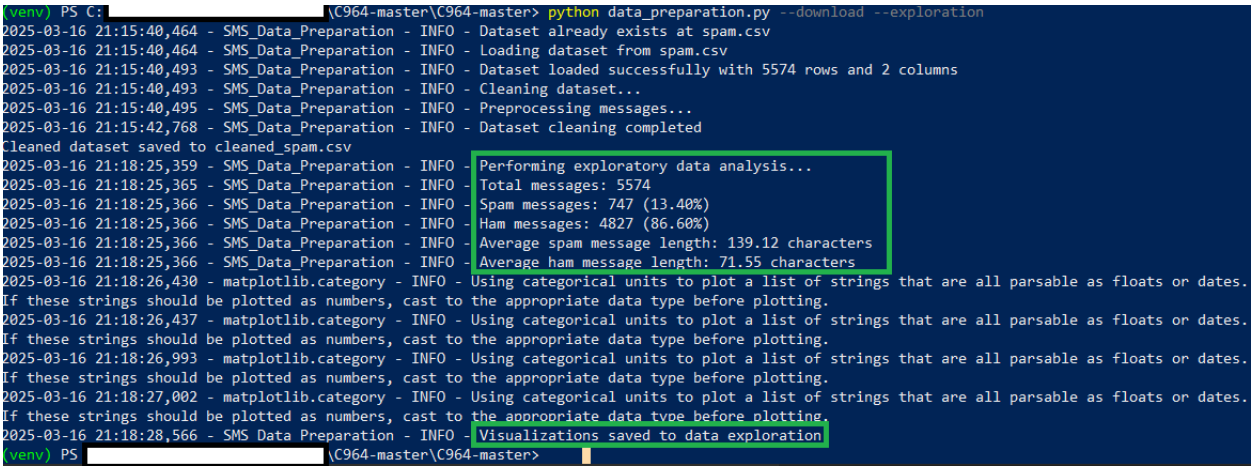


You have now successfully set the stage for the program to run efficiently! In the next section make sure to follow the commands exactly to ensure that your program runs correctly.

Running the Program:

The first step of running the program entails preparing and analyzing the data to be fed into the model, to accomplish this run the following command in your terminal window:

1. Download and process the dataset:
   `python data_preparation.py --download –exploration`
2. You will be provided with terminal notifications explaining to you what is currently happening in the program.

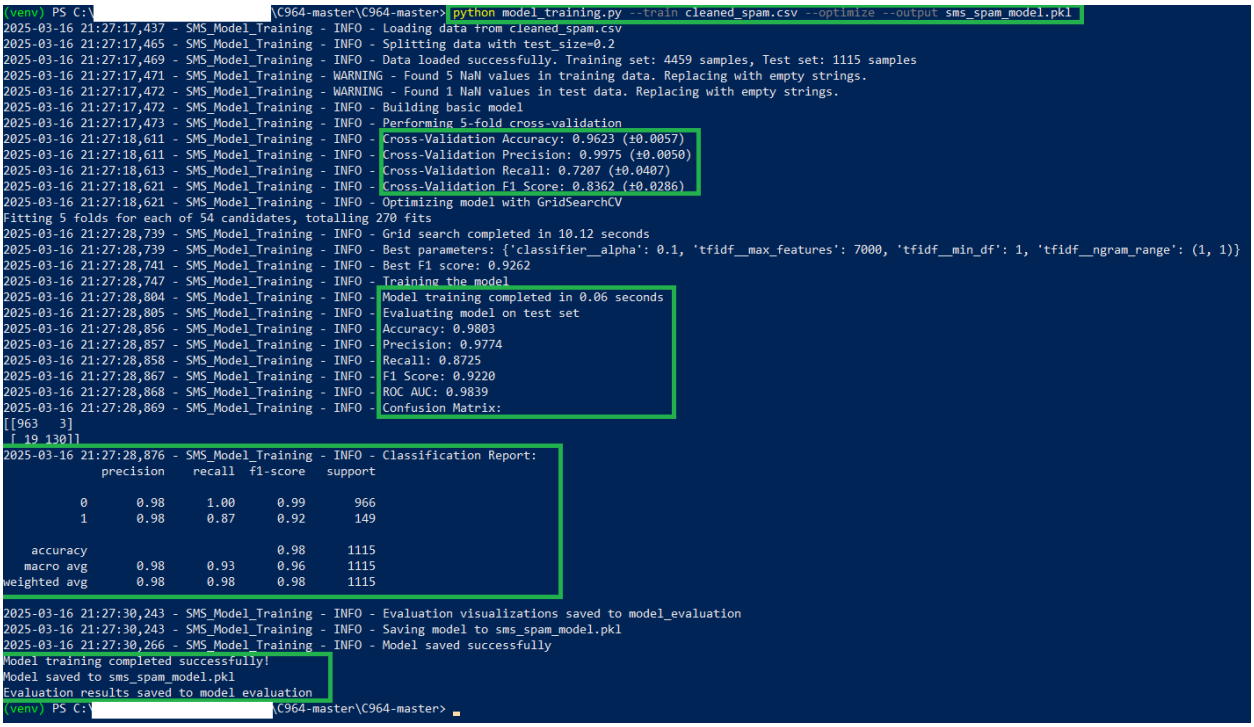


This command downloads the SMS Spam Collection dataset if it doesn't already exist on your machine and cleans and processes the data, as well as generates visualizations about the dataset as you will see later.

Now it is time to train the machine learning model on the processed dataset:

`python model_training.py --train cleaned_spam.csv --optimize`

This will load the cleaned dataset into the program, split it into training and testing sets. Then train and optimize a Naive Bayes classifier with TF-IDF vectorization then evaluate the model's performance. Note that the trained model will be saved as 'sms_spam_model.pkl', the evaluation results will be stored to model_evaluation.

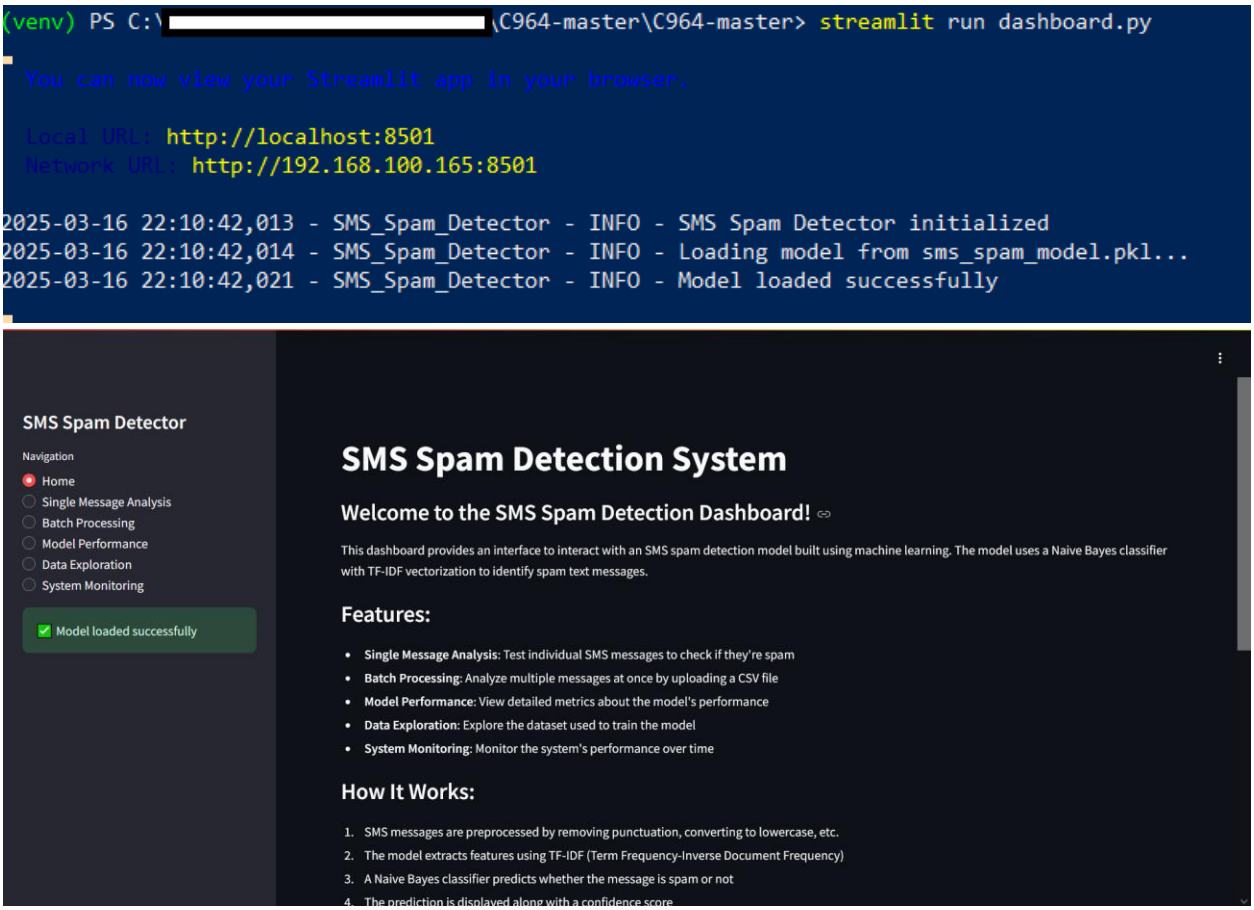


The program has now been trained and evaluated; to view the dashboard, you have two options. Option 1 is through the Streamlit dashboard which launches in your web browser and provides an overview of the system, visualizations of the model's performance, and a capability to upload a CSV file to be ran through the model. Option 2 is to use the CLI application where you can choose to analyze a single message, or a CSV file.

For your Streamlit dashboard run the following command:

```
streamlit run dashboard.py
```

This will launch the dashboard in your browser at ‘http://localhost:8501/’ in your default browser.



Using the detailed information on the page you can navigate the webpage and explore all of its features.

To stop the dashboard, return to your terminal window and press ‘ctrl’ + ‘c’.

Troubleshooting:

If you are having trouble, please refer to the log files that each program generates after it is ran. Also ensure that you didn't encounter any problems when downloading requirements.txt. Please do not hesitate to reach out if any undocumented problems occur.