Facebook and Fake News

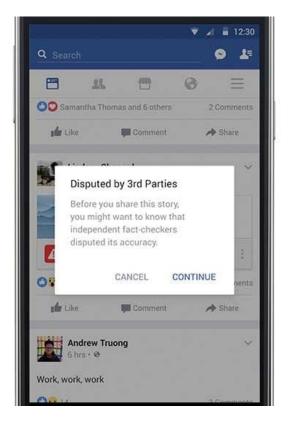
Consider each of the below proposals, and fill in each of the below TODOs.

Proposals

Proposal 1

Facebook relies on an algorithm as well as individual users' reports to identify content that is potentially "fake news." Once the content has been identified, it is sent to third-party fact-checkers for verification. If the content is verified as fake news, it is publicly flagged with a warning that the content is disputed by fact-checkers.





Proposal 2

However, a designer at Facebook believes that there needs to be a different approach to content regulation. Their proposal is that content deemed problematic by third-party fact-checkers should be prevented from being shared on the platform altogether.

Questions

- 1. Which form of content regulation, Proposal 1 or Proposal 2, do you feel is better? Why?
 - a. My personal opinion is that **Proposal 1** is better. The reason for this is that the ethical discussion in the lecture articles from Week 10 state that we must stop fake news whilst maintaining a democracy. A democracy is defined here. Proposal 2 could be deemed as censorship while Proposal 1 is simply informative.
- 2. Which form of content regulation, Proposal 1 or Proposal 2, do you think best preserves or promotes the five rights and opportunities necessary for a democratic public sphere?
 - a. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Rights? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1. "As citizens of a democracy, we have rights to basic liberties, such as liberties of expression and association. The right to expressive liberty is important not only for the freedom of the individual, so that he or she is not censored, but also for democracy itself." (CS50 Guest Lecture) This clearly states that people should not be censored if we are to maintain the rights defined in a democracy. Proposal 2 suggests censored information that is disputed or deemed false, whereas Proposal 1 suggests informing the user. Proposal 1 lets the user make a more informed decision while Proposal 2 would enforce the flow of information to the user.
 - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
 - Proposal 1 because it is not restrictive of the information a user can post. Proposal 2, however, gives more opportunity to some users to post than others as information that is only **potentially false** is removed.
 - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
 - Proposal 1 because it publicizes all information and enables all users to access that information but simply informs the user of the post's accuracy whereas Proposal 2 removes the information from public accessibility.
 - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
 - Neither. Proposal 2 removes information so it prevents users from hearing all viewpoints. Proposal 1 would continue the development of an "Echo Chamber" as described in this article by Joshua Cohen and Archon Fung.
 - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
 - Proposal 1. Proposal 2 would decrease communicative power because any transfer of information is filtered and enforced while Proposal 1 enables all information to be transferred, independently of factual evidence. Proposal 1 does still, however, may seem to value some posts or users more than others as markings can decrease the communicative power of certain users.