

Assignment 1: Project Direction

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Using AI to Fight Fake News

Problem Statements

1. Voters want to be able to identify/combat fake news - which is plaguing American society - in order to make informed decisions. Fighting and removing sources of fake news prevents the spread of misinformation, creates a healthier place of discussion, and promotes news literacy while also improving public trust in news outlets/traditional journalism.
2. **Young, American voters want to feel as though they can trust the information they see on their social media timelines and not have to be fearful of fake news. Flagging potential fake articles and warning the user of potential false information upon clicking these links will prevent the user from becoming misinformed and visiting harmful websites, while also promoting news literacy and public trust in traditional journalism.**
3. Social media entities want to be able to identify, remove, and prevent the creation of fake news articles so that their users will trust them as a reputable application, improving reliability, site traffic, and general usage of their resources.

Customer

- Young, American voters
- Social media sites

Customer Description

- American voters: Internet users of voting age who are presented with news via shared social media site (such as Facebook, Twitter, etc) posts
- Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter who want to prove their trustworthiness and dedication to "the truth"

Customer Demographic

- Age 18-34, working-class citizens that live in the city who are registered to vote, who do not have much of an education are likely to be too trusting or easily influenced
- Young people from age 18-34 who want to find a reliable news source.
- *Notes from Randy: who is likely to be too trusting, job, education, access to info, social status, type of career, place that they live, how they spend their time, are they using a computer or phone?*

Other Customer(s) or Stakeholder(s)

- Frequently visited social media sites where people re-publish (or re-post) information and are not required to edit or fact-check, such as Facebook, Reddit, and Twitter

Application Type

- Phone app
- Google Chrome browser extension

Tech Stack

- Java
- Python
- C++
- C
- Swift
- JavaScript
- Html/CSS
- Pytorch

Client Tech

- React Native

Server Tech

- Flask

Top Application Capabilities (at least 5)

1. Cross-reference articles
2. Label a site as fake or truthful
3. Suggest related articles that may serve to verify or disprove the claims of a flagged article
4. When clicking on a headline or link to an article, the extension would warn the user of potential fake news or click-bait before bringing them to that webpage (Browser Extension)
5. When issuing the warning to the user, suggests a list of other newsworthy sites instead (Browser Extension)
 - a. *Potential conflict of interest*
6. Politician trustworthiness

Scenarios (2 to 3)

1. Bob is a 27 year-old working American who is looking at his social media timeline and sees an article relating to the upcoming election. It is about one of the presidential candidates, and apparently, they have said that all working Americans “deserve to die.” Bob doesn’t believe this happened, so he clicks on the link to read the full article. Our program warns him about the article, stating that the news source/article is untrustworthy, and recommends him other sources to peruse.
2. **George just turned 18 and has just registered to vote. He was initially thinking of voting for a particular candidate because he promised to help people of lower income, he also promised to help lower taxes for all the people in the country and to tackle crime more effectively. Unfortunately, George came across some articles on social media that put his initial candidate in a bad position. The articles**

contradict what the candidate had promised to do. George decides to go on his phone, download the fact checker app and check to see if these articles are in fact true, and from trusted sources. He does so by inputting the link on the app.

3. Twitter wants to increase user retention by becoming a secondary source of information for their users. They want their users to trust whatever posted on their feeds so they use our program to lower the reach of tweets with misinformation in them. Their users will become aware of harmful or fake information/links, and then be able to report back to Twitter in order to flag the post to be taken down.

Team Members

Franklin Lu	Chicago	0
George Tapia	Chicago	0
Truong Quang Pham	Vietnam	13
Alexis Edwards	Chicago	0

Team Working Agreement

We will use **Github** and keep items updated as progress is made.

If we need to meet outside of class we have found a mutually agreeable time at:

Sat/Sun at 10am CST

If we need to meet outside of class we will use the following tool/tech for meetings:

Discord

When we are not meeting together we will use the following tool/tech for communications:

Discord

Team Governance Agreement

1. Everyone contributes a roughly equal amount of work.
2. Clear communication! (Especially if you need help or need more time)
3. If we agree to meet at a certain time, everyone should be present and on time
4. Be respectful and kind to others
5. Provide constructive criticism/feedback
6. Be open-minded to others and their work
7. Be understanding of certain circumstances that may arise
8. Invite a person for a specific contribution (make people feel valued)