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System Request

Project Name: *PandemicTracker*

Business Need:

Currently, there is much spread of misinformation around the world concerning current events, especially with the onset of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This leads to fear, panic and major financial and social damage.

We would like to provide a centralized platform to render up-to-date and factual information about world health. Our goal is to have a one-stop service that people can rely on and which will help resolve uncertainty and tackle biased media coverage.

Functionality:

The system will aggregate information from trusted sources (WHO, CDC, Johns Hopkins etc.) about the current epidemic. The data will not be limited to just the number of cases but will include other information, such as travel bans and country preparedness. The system will present all this information in an accessible manner to end users, allowing them to browse global as well as national data. Users will be able to rate the information that is presented to them in terms of usefulness.

Expected Value:

Tangible:

The platform will help citizens avoid infection, which will reduce the economic strain of the epidemic on countries.

If users refrain from travelling (or become better at avoiding infection) because of information from the service, that will save governments the cost of two weeks' quarantine at a hospital.

Intangible:

By spreading factual and easily understandable information, the platform will assuage people's fears and reduce panic. An informed and calm populace is imperative to defeating pandemics.

Special Issues or Constraints:

The database of information will need to be constantly updated, meaning the service will have to be connected to the Internet.

Though we will be very selective about the platform's sources, we will inevitably have to rely on governments being truthful in their published data.