During the year 2016, the Presidential election between Donald J Trump and Hilary Clinton, helped identify a growing problem on social media. The spread of misinformation, lies and dubious claims shared online, became affectionately known as 'Fake News'. This catchy phrase was developed by at the time, President Trump, who raged a metaphorical war with the US news media. This idea of fake news really spread widely on social media as the post between real news and fake news looked so identical in syntax, that it was almost impossible to distinguish the differences. According to the website, Science.org, "A new study shows that people are the prime culprits when it comes to the propagation of misinformation through social networks. And they're good at it, too: Tweets containing falsehoods reach 1500 people on Twitter six times faster than truthful tweets, the research reveals." The prevalence of misinformation can be pinpointed to the users of social media. Regular people are spreading misinformation but identifying who is creating fake news to sow discourse is the true villain against a civil society.

According to the New York Times, reachers at Oxford University, "They found that the number of countries with political disinformation campaigns more than doubled to 70 in the last two years, with evidence of at least one political party or government entity in each of those countries engaging in social media manipulation." Many dubious countries have been systematically organizing and spreading fake news to further divide America and sow discourse on social media. People who are behind this fake news are often there for monetary reasons and not truly there to spread misinformation. Spreading misinformation is a big business, according to the Guardian, it is hard to know the exact scale of the for-profit misinformation industry, researchers say, since it

functions as part of an underground economy and comes in various forms. In addition to content mills and ad revenue schemes, there are private firms across the globe that are hired to create fake engagement or promote political propaganda. In 2021 alone, Facebook said it removed 52 coordinated influence networks across 32 countries that attempted to direct or corrupt the public debate for strategic goals, according to a company report on inauthentic behavior." For many countries and smaller platforms misformation can be used to help increase the traffic to their site which can lead to an increased number of users.

It is unethical to spread misinformation on social media as it has a negative ripple effect on society. According to the Council of Europe website,Coe.it, " Propaganda, misinformation and fake news have the potential to polarize public opinion, to promote violent extremism and hate speech and, ultimately, to undermine democracies and reduce trust in the democratic processes.It is vital for schools to provide students with a solid education on media and information literacy as part of the curriculum." It is often the job or responsibility of the teacher to distinguish between fake and real news in order to teach it to their students. Teachers try their best to teach and educate students on where to receive truthful information but it is now becoming even more difficult for teachers to tell the difference. It can also be deemed biased by getting all your information from one source so it is important to have a broad number of sources to appropriately see an issue from all sides and teach students the ethical and empathic approach to the situation.

Scratch Link(Coding Component):
https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/773125611

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