

Criterion A: Planning

There are many business people that don't have time to actively participate in social media but still want to seem to be in the know and well-rounded in things such as sports and celebrity news (implying having a leisurely, calm lifestyle). The goal of this application is to make finding relevant news and posting about trending topics easier and more self-sufficient (meaning the application can operate and make decisions on its own without user effort). In many ways this will be like a personal assistant in charge of projecting an image of involvement on social media.

Currently the process of posting to social media involves scrolling through Facebook or Twitter and sharing or retweeting a post/tweet (with the precondition that you've already liked or followed some pages). However, catching onto the trends takes much longer, and many times they don't know what to post. For many people, the time it takes to explore the news outweighs the advantages they may get from posting.

Let's take 48-year old networking engineer Chris Bowers, who says that he does not have enough time to post on social media, yet would like to appear as though he keeps up with the sports world. Using this application, he will be able to specify which type of news he'd like to see and post about, configure the program to post to his social media accounts, post about individual links or a trending event or topic, and modify the post's message. He also wants to be able to let the application post on its own without having to worry about it.

He will be able to do this by choosing categories of interest (such as Sports) and browsing through his personalized news feed, choosing an article from the news feed if so desired. After a certain period of time (which can be modified), the program will determine trending topics through an algorithm, and Chris will be able to modify or cancel the post before it is automatically posted on his preferred platform (chosen on initial launch and modifiable). This will be accomplished by him giving the program his Facebook or Twitter login information (this will only be a one-time necessity).

Criteria for Success

Essential:

- Be able to choose categories of interest
- Be able to retrieve and display news article data from the internet
- Tell user what topics are trending
- Auto-generate a message regarding the topic to be posted as is or modified
- Be able to post on Facebook and/or Twitter given necessary credentials
 - Warn before trying to tweet a message more than 140 characters because the attempt will not be successful

Client-requested:

- Be able to change the automatic-post and refresh frequency settings from their default values
- Be able to update credentials and categories of interest
- Auto-check platform preference when posting windows are opened
- Allow user to post individual article

- When the application is exited and restarted, it should remember the credentials, settings, and articles from the last 24 hours or the 10 most recent articles (whichever group contains more)
- Automatically refresh news feed but also have a refresh button so the user can refresh manually

Optional features:

- Encrypt credentials when storing for future use
- Not allowing duplicate posts