

FactCheckr: Empowering Users with Truth in News

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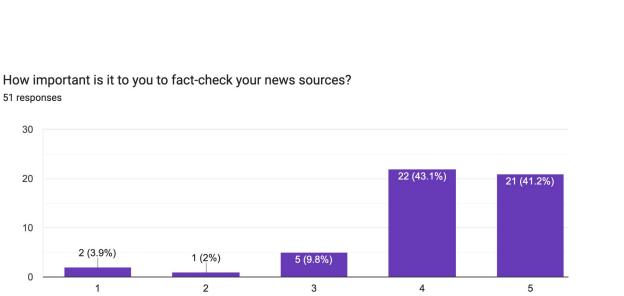
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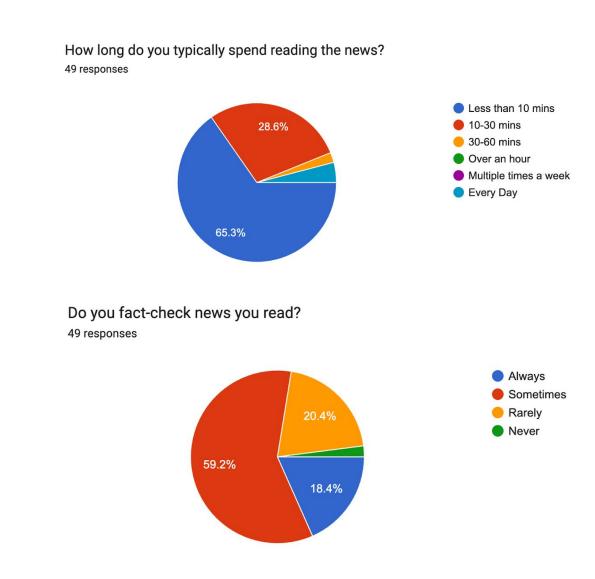
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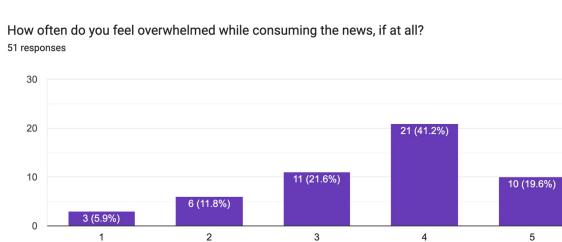
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User Research

We conducted 20 semi-structured interviews and think-alouds to better understand news reading habits and fact-checking processes. We also created a survey to capture more general trends and received over 50 responses. We gained insights on challenges people face when fact-checking.







Personas

Frequent and infrequent news readers, each who may face challenges in fact checking.

Example Scenario: Quick News Read





Frequent news readers may attempt to quickly verify facts but may face time constraints.

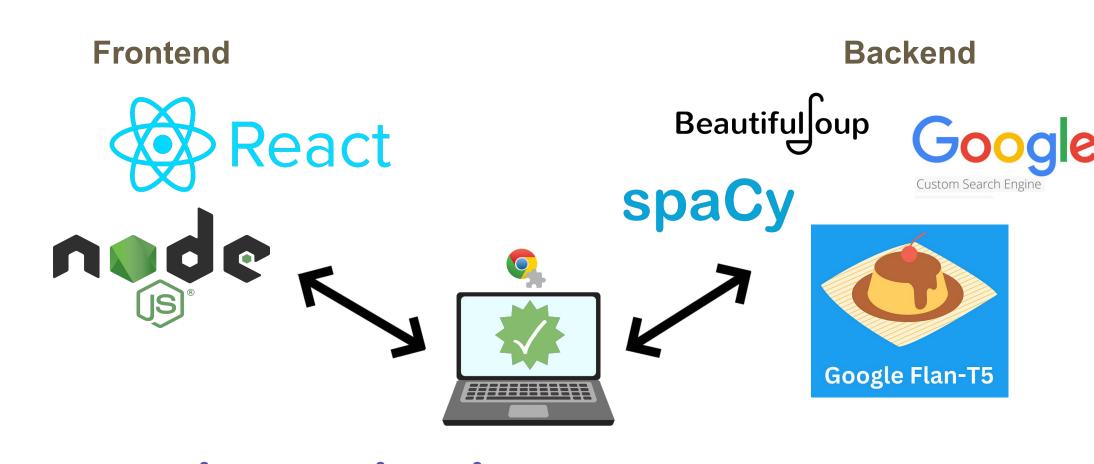
Infrequent news readers may not know how to fact check or are naive to check credibility, in addition to facing time constraints.

Problem

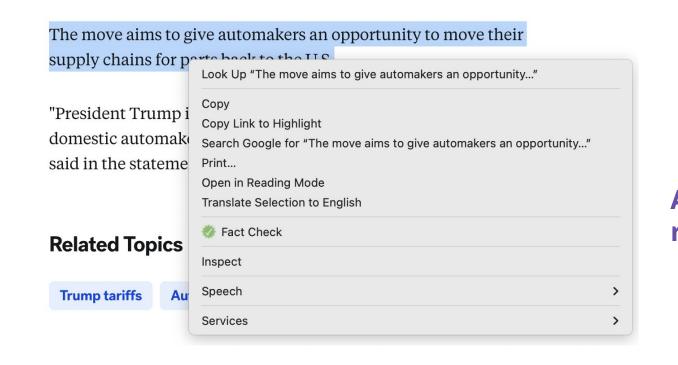
While users rely on news articles to stay informed about current events, many face challenges when it comes to fact-checking the information they read. This can be due to a lack of time, limited awareness of how to verify claims, or the inconvenience of having to leave the article to search on external platforms like Google and review multiple sources. As a result, the fact-checking process becomes time-consuming and discouraging, reducing the likelihood that users will critically assess the information presented to them.

System Overview and Approach

We introduce **FactCheckr**, a Chrome extension that simplifies the fact-checking process for everyday readers. By highlighting a claim on an online article and activating the tool with a right-click, our extension draws from trusted sources to generate a conclusion and a confidence score indicating the level of consensus. By reducing the time, effort, and expertise needed to verify information, FactCheckr empowers users to critically engage with news they consume more frequently and effectively.

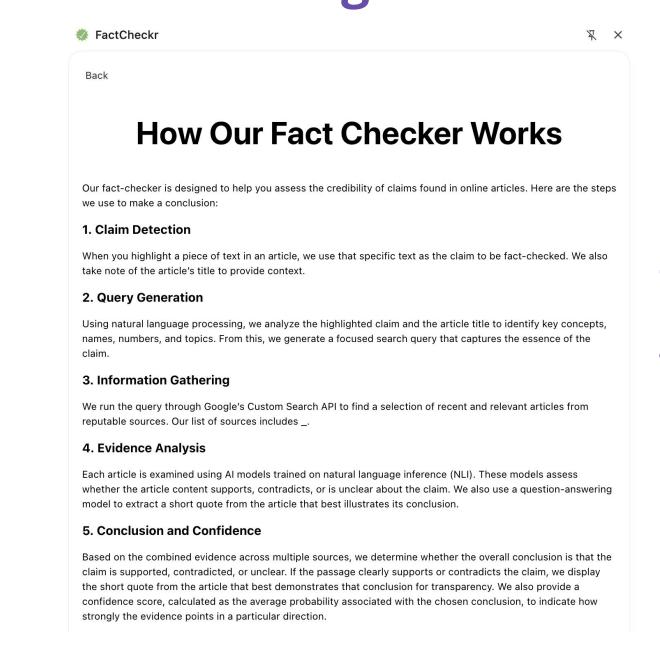


Extension Activation



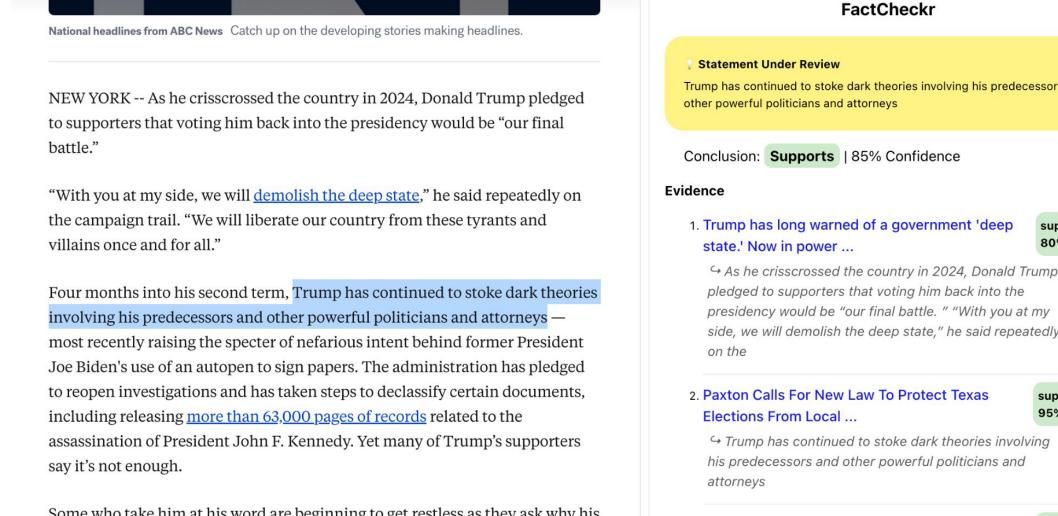
Accessible through right-click menu

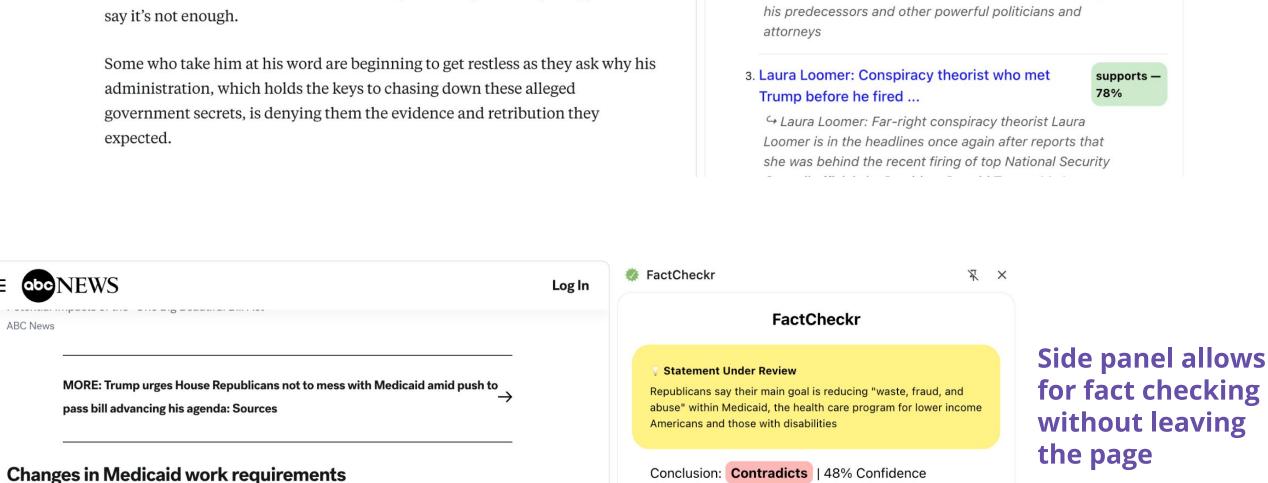
Information Page



Transparency on methodology used to generate conclusions

Sample Results





1. GOP fight over Medicaid cuts

speaks to reporters following a

3. Republican proposals to cut Medicaid

→ GOP proposals to cut Medicaid could be

could be politically fraught.

negotiate the

→ A fight over Medicaid cuts is threatening GOP

20255:00 AM ET By Deirdre Walsh, Elena Moore

Speaker of the House Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La.

2. What's in Trump's 'big' tax and Links to immigration bill House Republicans ... ← Speaker Mike Johnson is scrambling for referenced support ahead of a Wednesday vote. Officially titled the "One Big, Beautiful Bill Act," this sources megabill fulfills a laundry list of President Donald security. As House Republicans continue to

Evaluation Results

States must conduct **Medicaid eligibility**

Evaluator Comments

obc NEWS

is not yet even finalized itself.

pass bill advancing his agenda: Sources

Republicans say their main goal is reducing "waste, fraud, and abuse" within Medicaid, the health care program for lower income Americans and those with

sabilities, in order to achieve hundreds of billions in savings over the next decade.

Early estimates requested by House Democrats put the number of people who could

lose coverage at more than 8 million, but that number continues to fluctuate and the

Congressional Budget Office has not yet released its final score of the GOP bill, which

Proposed Medicaid Changes

Under GOP Bill

New work requirements on able-bodied Medicaid

redeterminations at least every six months for all

recipients 19-64 years old who don't have dependents.

- Users trusted our extension's results as much as their own Google search
- Users enjoyed the feature of confidence scores to contextualize our systems' strength in claim
- Prevents inconvenience of manually searching and clicking through multiple tabs
- Promoted critical thinking in interpreting biases from various news sources

Future Directions

- Using more accurate models if given access to GPU/more compute power
- Exploring different methods of computing the final confidence score
- Adding interactive explanations when hovering over single article confidence scores