



FactCheckr: Empowering Users with Truth in News

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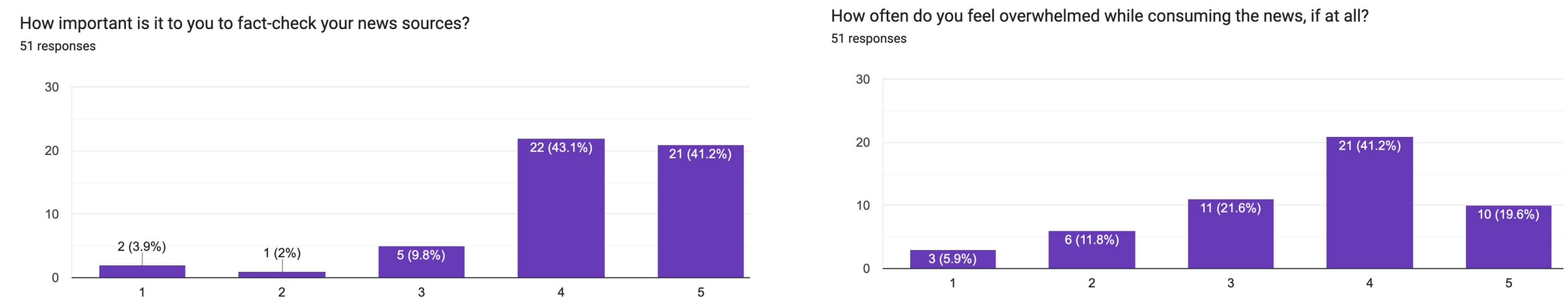
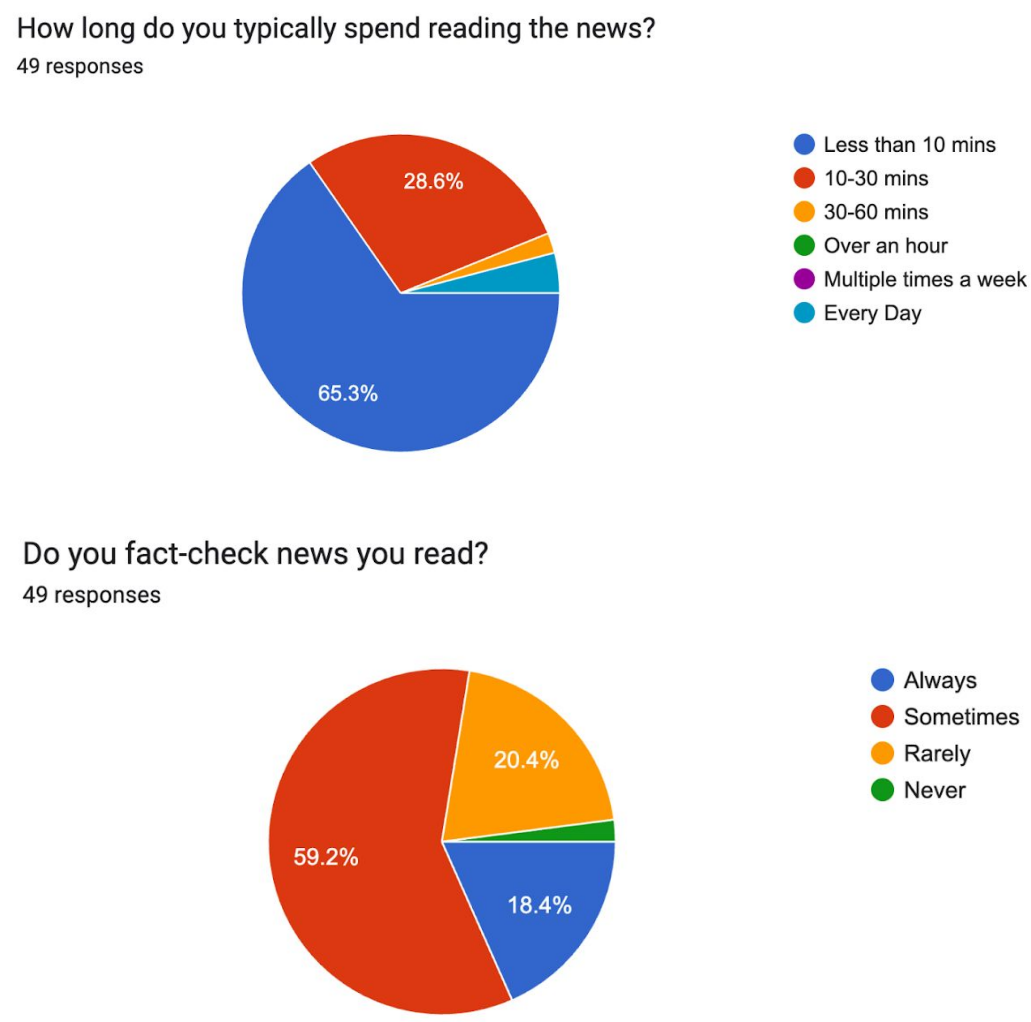
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User Research

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.

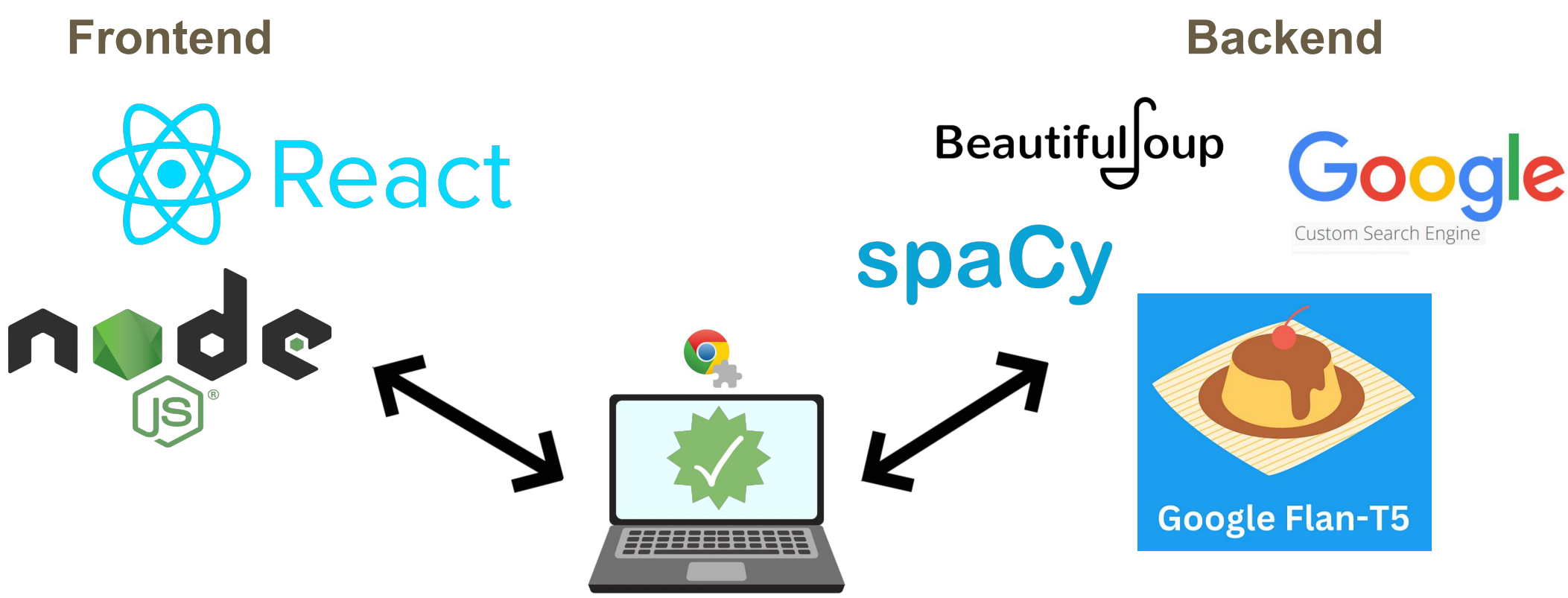
Infrequent news readers may not know how to fact check or are naive to check credibility, in addition to facing time constraints.

Problem

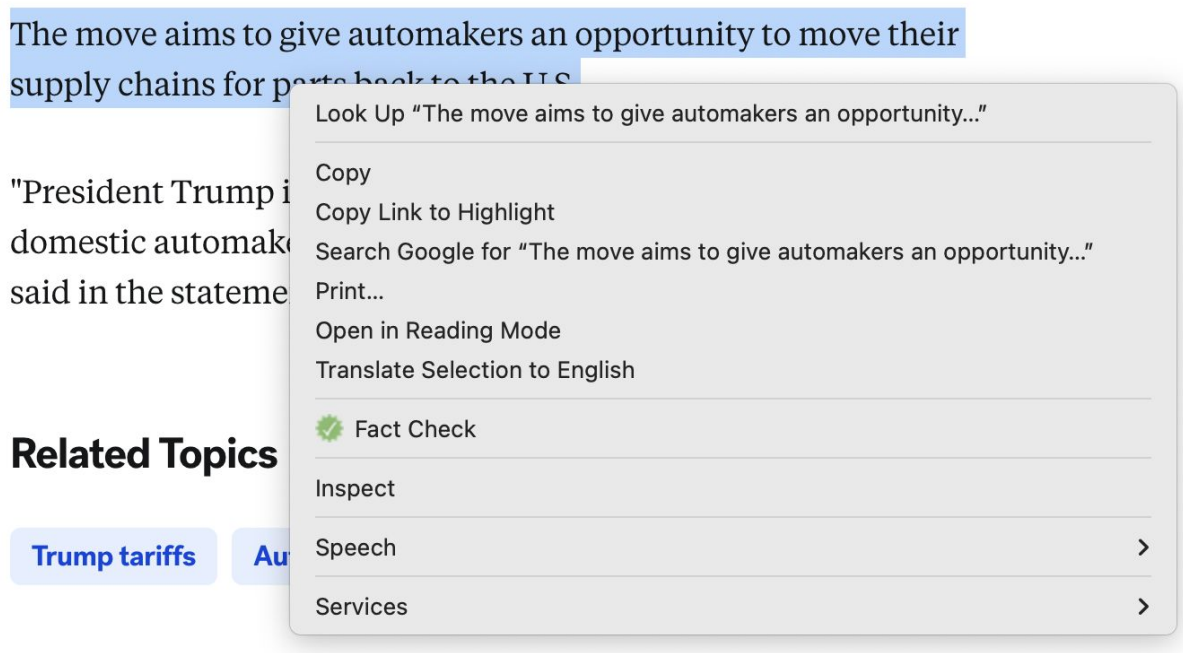
While users rely on news articles to stay informed about current events, many face challenges when it comes to fact-checking the information they read. This can be due to a **lack of time, limited awareness of how to verify claims**, or the **inconvenience of having to leave the article** to search on 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.

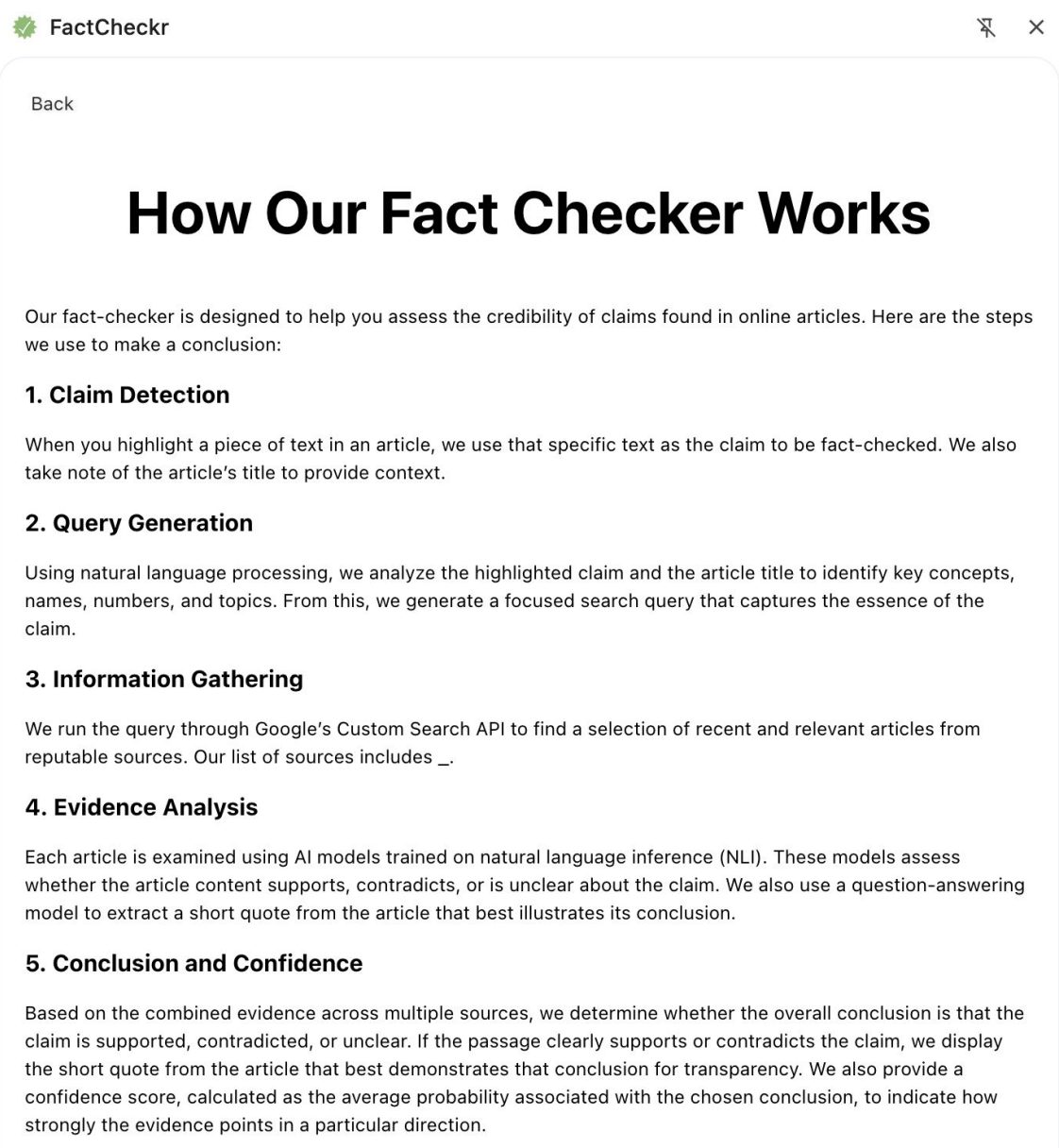


Extension Activation



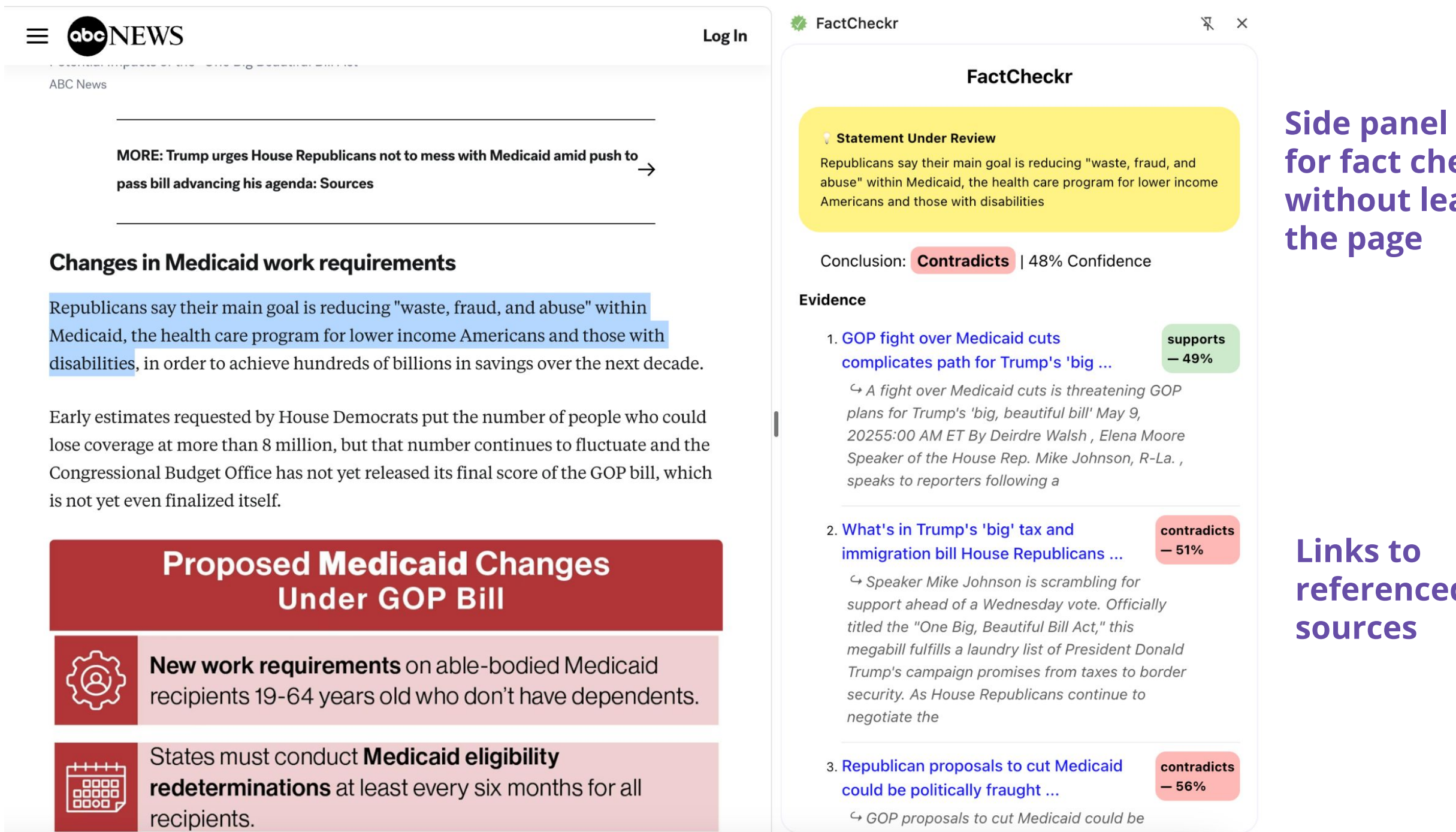
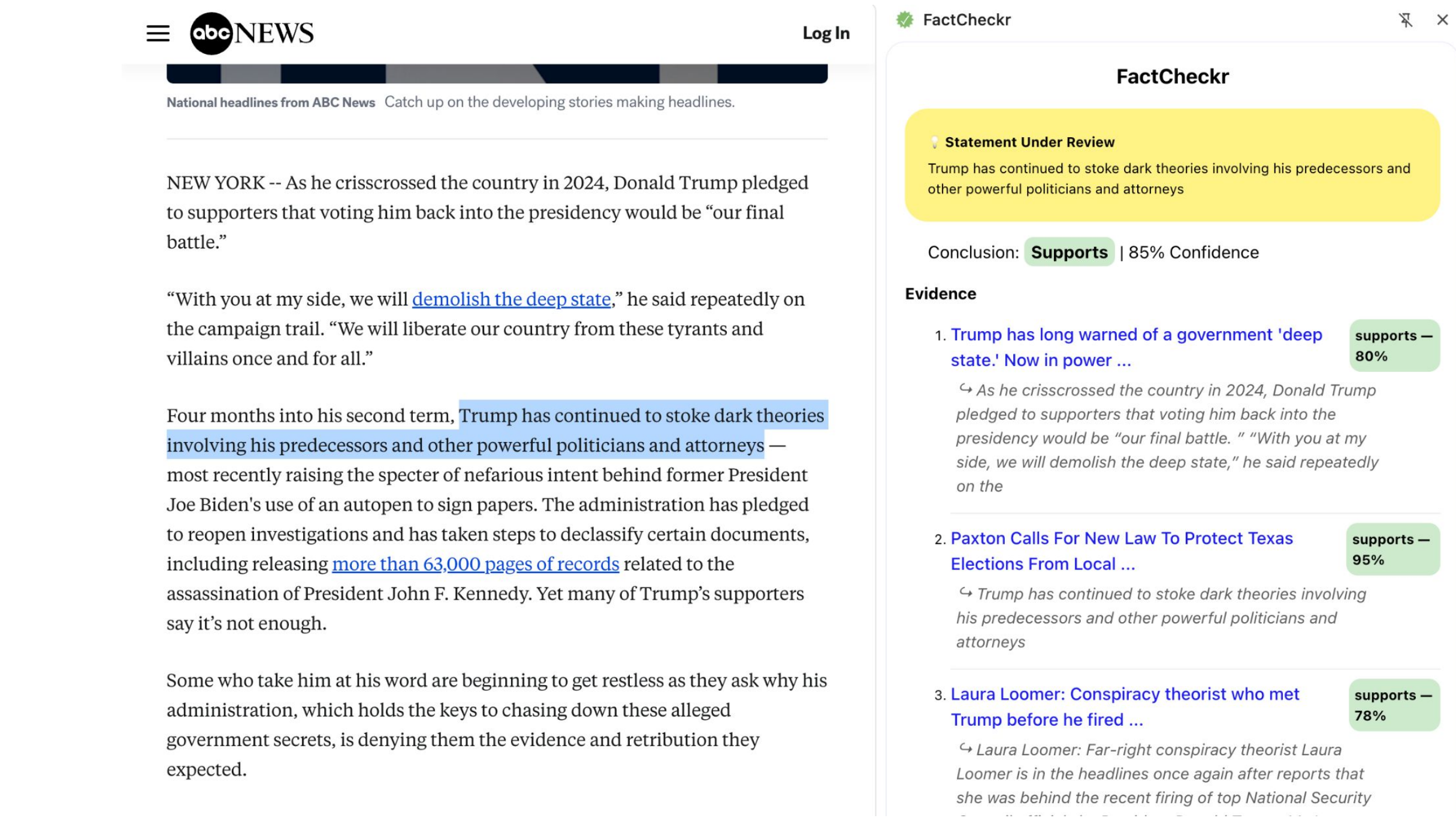
Accessible through right-click menu

Information Page



Transparency on methodology used to generate conclusions

Sample Results



Side panel allows for fact checking without leaving the page

Links to referenced sources

Evaluation Results

Evaluator Comments

- 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