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**IDENTIFYING FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES**

Project Documentation Submitted

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# Abstract

This document circles around fake news on the internet. In this research the researchers will create a model that identifies if a link posted on social media sites leads to an article that is fake or not. The researchers will use an algorithm for classifying the link and it will be implemented through a web extension that will only run on social media sites. Considering that there are various ways in identifying fake news, this document will be providing the characteristics of fake news and how accurate is the algorithm in identifying fake news.

KEYWORDS: Fake news, classification

# Introduction

## **Project Context**

Fake news is a deliberate misinformation or hoax that spreads via traditional print, broadcast news media or online social media (Novotny, 2017). It misleads people and make the world less informed. It harms the community and the industry in an alarming level (Stecula, n.d.).

Eric Trump, the son of Donald Trump, tweeted an article about paid protestors from the domain “abcnews.com.co” that reinforced right wing conspiracy theories. The article was completely fabricated, but it resembled the real ABC News enough to fool those who weren’t paying attention (Palmisano, 2016). With the way on how fake news is spreading, it would be ideal to have application that help identify fake news online.

## **Purpose and Description**

The main purpose of this project is to give awareness to online users from being tricked by fake news. The proponents will create an algorithm that can identify fake news in social media sites. The algorithm will be implemented through a web extension that will only work on Google Chrome.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To create a classification model that determine whether a link leads to a fake news article or not.
2. To create a web extension that can identify whether a link clicked by a user leads to a fake news article or not.

## **Scope and Limitations**

The study is about identifying fake news. The researchers will use JavaScript, HTML, CSS and PHP programming languages to create a web extension for identifying fake news. The gathered datasets will come from three online websites (Kaggle.com, cbcpwebsite.com, Primer.com). The web extension will only work on the latest and upcoming versions Google Chrome and it will not work on any other browsers.

This study is only limited on identifying fake news in microblogging sites. The researchers will not use any classifier algorithm other than SVM.

# Review of Related Literature

In this chapter, the researchers will be presenting an articles and related readings about this study. Moreover, this chapter suggests about fake news, web extension or plugin. Furthermore, this chapter will also inform that the researchers aims to create a web extension that will scan the links for fake news.

**Fake News**

According to Ruchansky et al. (2017), they study about the problems of fake news detection. The researchers read several articles that addressed the problem by focusing on the text, the response an article receives, or the users who source it. They claim that it is important to combine all three. They propose the CSI model which is composed of three modules. Œfirst module, Capture, captures the abstract temporal behavior of user encounters with articles, as well as temporal textual and user features, to measure response as well as the text. The second is score; it estimates a source suspiciousness score for every user, which is then combined with the first module to produce a predicted label for each article. The separation into modules allows CSI to output a prediction separately on users and articles, incorporating each of the three characteristics, resulting into combining the information for classification. The model demonstrated the accuracy of CSI in classifying fake news articles.

Badaskar et al. (n.d.) focused on the topic about fake news. The researcher measures the accuracy of number of articles that are classified correctly as real or fake and the log-probability that measures the classification decision, the researchers used a classification-task based formalism for evaluating various features with the objective of improving conventional language models. Features that perform well in the task for classifying real and fake articles. These features are syntactic, semantic and empirical. The semantic features contribute significantly to the classification task accuracy.

The researchers will conclude that these articles will help them to learn more about web browser extensions and fake news that will apply to the study about identifying fake news using web extension.

# Technical Background

**Web Extension**

Extensions are bits of code that modify the functionality of a web browser. They are written using standard Web technologies - JavaScript, HTML, and CSS - plus some dedicated JavaScript APIs. Among other things, extensions can add new features to the browser or change the appearance or content of particular websites. So basically we will create an extension that can identify fake news in social media sites.

**IndexedDb Database**

Database is a systematic collection of data. It supports storage and manipulation of data. Basically, a Database can consist of many variables like schemas, tables, queries, reports and other objects.

The Database that we used is called IndexedDb. IndexedDB is a low-level API for client-side storage of significant amounts of structured data, including files/blobs. This API uses indexes to enable high-performance searches of this data.

# Design and Methodology

A web extension is a plug-in that extends the functionality of a web browser. The researchers will create a web extension that can identify fake news and will only run if the link is clicked. When the link is clicked, the system will compare the news link article from the list of fake news links and from the list of authentic news gathered by the team. The data for fake and authentic news list will be gathered from kaggle.com, CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines,Primer.com) and it will be saved in a database. If the link is not in the list, the system then will rate the ff. articles depending on how positive they are in specific factors:

A. How reliable is the source (Depend on domain name and where you have found the article)  
B. Rate the author itself, is the author have enough legibility? Is he famous? Have he published anything else?  
C. Title: unusual formatting  
D. The availability of the article from other media, Is the information or related articles available on the other sites or medias?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | A | B | C | D |
| ARTICLE1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| ARTICLE2 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 |

ARTICLE 1: DUTERTE TO THROW OPPOSITION SENATORS IN MANILA BAY AS PART OF GOVERNMENT CLEAN UP from adobochornicles.com [9]  
  
ARTICLE 2: DUTERTE’S SECOND SONA COULD TAKE 1.5 HOURS- MALACANANG from gmanetwork.com

After rating the link and classifying it the data will be saved to database for future preference. If the author is unknown the system will automatically flagged it as fake. If the link is confirmed fake the system will notify the user with a dialog box popped up, but if the link article is authentic the system will also notify the user.

The extension will be developed using HTML, CSS, PHP and JavaScript and it will be compatible to Google Chrome.

# Conclusions and Recommendation

Fake news can be lessened or better yet eliminated, since people keep falling prey for such posts; it needs to be stopped. This paper is meant to do just that; the program we are proposing is meant to detect if the news posted in your social media websites, which would literally get marked as a fake if it is one. To identify a fake news one must check the author, URL, title, and the availability of the article from other medias. This program will be a plugin for the users’ internet browsers, but will only work for social media sites, and will not detect if posted news are fake from other websites. If this program could be implemented, there will definitely be a big change in how news would be spread, since users will no longer fall for faulty news articles and posts.

To help increase the accuracy of the extension, the researchers recommend to add more features for classifying data and to work not only in chrome but also on other browsers

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