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ENGL 182

MP2 Revision Plan

Big Data; Big Problems

The first goal in my revision plan is to rework the Abstract section so it introduces my argument more effectively. I will start by removing unnecessary background information, only keeping the parts that are needed to explain my proposed decentralized model and how it addresses the issues which are present in the current system. I think I could cut the following: “The paper starts with describing how data is a valuable asset for the society through some examples from the recent past. The data asset is classified into 3 categories: raw data, insights, and transactions. Insights and transactions are resourceful data which carry a lot of value in various applications which makes it expensive; whereas, raw data is just a bunch of characters with no value to it. This is followed by examples of how big data could improve quality of life in future, specifically in health and education” and replace it with one or two sentences introducing the concept of big data and its applications. Since I need to explain these categories in depth to propose my decentralized system, it seems unnecessary to include this part in the abstract section.

I can also cut or combine some sentences in the following section: “ Further into the paper, a decentralized data ecosystem model is introduced with very brief technical details. The paper intends to describe the various parties involved in the system and how they interact to create a fair space for everyone. Apps and services collecting user data and users are responsible for

the creation of raw data in the system. The ecosystem allows data scientists from all over the world to access raw data and convert them into transaction and insight assets. Companies with B2B or B2C services can use those transaction and insight assets to provide quality products. In return, these companies pay money for those assets which rewards data scientists, users, and data collecting apps appropriately”. Since the model forms the main part of my paper I do not need to go into so much detail in the opening section. I will briefly introduce the concept of joint data ownership, where everyone profits from the data collected. At the very end of the abstract I will clearly state my claim that the decentralized model can solve the issues that the current system faces.

The biggest change I will make is to cut large parts of pages two through four to help clear the focus of my essay. Instead of trying to convince the reader of the benefits of big data, I will just give the basic background needed to understand the current system and why tech companies collect data to begin with. It doesn’t matter what the reader’s opinion on data collection is—it is here to stay and the market says the data has value. There are many other resources outlining how big data is used, and why. Explaining this does not form a core part of my argument. I will still include the parts that explain the three categories of data: Raw data, insights, and transactions. These are necessary to explain the model I introduce later. I will cut the entire section “**How will big data benefit the mankind?**”.

Also I will add a few **counter arguments**:

- 1) **Some could argue that the data which Big Tech collects from the user is a form of payment from the user in exchange of free services.** I do not agree with this as users signed up to use the app and not be abused by data breaches. As they signup to use the app, they should be able to trust the application with their personal data, as exchange of data is a required part of the service. Moreover if

users stopped using these services, Big tech is likely to pay users for their data as the real value of data is a lot more than what a user would expect it to be, as it is imperative for future innovation.

2) If data helps with innovation, why not let Big tech do the innovation for the world?

Big Tech consists of private corporations whose only purpose is to sustain long term profits. These companies will always engage in what is most profitable for them in the future. The software and technologies they build from stealing people's data, will be sold at exorbitantly high prices to them only, in the future. If it was a non profit society collection our data for innovation, it would be totally acceptable. But people should never trust corporations blindly.

I will keep the section "**Issues with the ecosystem**" because explaining the flaws in the current system is fundamental to the argument that a better, decentralized model is needed. I could even expand on some of these problems more, like unethical way much of this data is collected, and how these issues I listed limit the data from being used to its full potential. For example more people would be more willing to share more data if we all profited from the innovations that data made possible.

The section I will revise the least is the one which explains a theoretical decentralized system. I think I did a good job explaining the model in simple terms. In my revision though, I will make an effort to explain more clearly how the system would solve the issues I laid out earlier in the paper.