Implementation Plan

Cancer can be defined as a disease where one’s own cells choose to grow without control (National Cancer Institute, 2021). These cells (named cancer cells) not only grow uncontrollably, but also takes resources from neighboring cells, tricks the immune system into assisting it, and finally kill the host (National Cancer Institute, 2021). For these reasons, it is crucial to discover cancerous cells as early as possible (NCI Staff, 2022). To assist in the early diagnosis of cancerous cells, an application using Artificial Intelligence to diagnose images based on patient data will be implemented.

Software Requirements

The software requirements will consist of mainly python libraries. To develop the machine learning model, Google’s Big Query and the NBIA Data Retriever will be used to collect DICOM data from The Imaging Data Commons database. The Imaging Data Commons (IDC) Tool used to allow researchers with access to data sets from multiple data coordinating centers (*Imaging Data Commons | CRDC*, n.d.). It allows for some data exploration as one can observe samples from the datasets selected for querying on Google’s Big Query platform (*Imaging Data Commons | CRDC*, n.d.). From here on, Google’s Big Query can be used to filter and download data through the use of SQL queries (*What Is BigQuery?*, n.d.). It also possess high flexibility, with multiple APIs for many programming languages, allowing one to automate the querying and data download process (*What Is BigQuery?*, n.d.). The TensorFlow library, also created by Google, is a machine learning platform that allows the development of deep learning models from its conception to its deployment (TensorFlow, n.d.). Not only does TensorFlow conceptualizing and deploying models easy, but it also allows one to fully visualize models and details regarding said model for better understanding of the nature of the model (Goldsborough, n.d.). TensorFlow also allows for fast modeling through its use of NVIDIA GPUs to train machine learning models at higher speeds in comparison to using the CPU (Goldsborough, n.d.). To load and process the DICOM files, the pydicom library will be used. This library allows one to read, write, or delete DICOM files and is compatible with the python Tkinter library (*About Pydicom |*, n.d.). Similarly, the Matplotlib library is also compatible with the Tkinter library (*Embedding in Tk — Matplotlib 3.6.0 Documentation*, n.d.). Matplotlib is a library that has great potential in creating visualizations through python (Matplotlib, 2012). The use of all of these libraries and the creation of this application is all possible through the use of the Python Programming Language. This programming language contains built in Graphical User Interface Libraries and allows one to easily use and create complex functions while maintaining readability within code (Sanner, n.d.).

Deployment

The software will be deployed as its own independent executable file. As it is written in Python, one will not have to worry about creating a version that is compatible with windows as opposed to a version that is compatible with Linux (Aaberge, 2020). Instructions will also be provided to guide the user into downloading and installing the Python programming language from the official site and provide a version of python that is compatible for use with the software application. An online page will be open for users of the application to voice their concerns (this page may possibly be a reddit page).

Strategies, Impact, & Activities

The main strategies will be to allow the user to use any number of DICOM files for making predictions. A separate API may be used to allow the update of the model using the hospital’s own data, but this may be part of the second iteration. The user will also be allowed to view a fixed dashboard and download the dashboard itself. This software app is meant to impact the amount of time spent determining whether a tumor is malignant or benign, thus saving radiologists time.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders will be doctors, patients, and radiologists. Despite the potential of AI to assist in early cancer detection, medical experts (doctors, radiologists, and other medical professionals) may show concerns regarding the possible high number of false positives (NCI Staff, 2022). For this reason, an accuracy of at least 95% is expected of the model used for making predictions on images through the software application. Not only is this a concern for the medical experts, but also the patient who may undergone unnecessary treatments and extra tests due to the prediction made by the Artificial Intelligence (NCI Staff, 2022).

Security & Risk

In terms of security, the access of the data will be left completely to the user. Every hospital follows the same standards set by HIPAA (hhs, 2013). Based on this, interconnectivity to any established server by the hospital will be made available so that the user can access the software application locally. To prevent data breaches due to malicious code within certain libraries, one will only use reputable libraries and inspect libraries for vulnerabilities before updating the software application.

Data Governance

Data Governance will be handled through a series of data preprocessing procedures. New data introduced for training the machine learning model will undergo data balancing based on categorical values (such as age, weight, and ethnicity). By balancing the data, one prevents any possible bias against a specific age group or ethnicity. The finalized model will be tested against a random data set of similar nature to the training set and in the case that its accuracy does not meet the minimum 95% requirement, then the model will be scrapped, the data will be further examined, and a new model will be developed for training.

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