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Exploring Blogging and News App

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Abstract: Happenings around the world has always impacted people for a very long time. Our daily thoughts, our perceptions, our dream context, our decision-making ability all are somewhat by a bit or more is shaped by the news. The traditional method of news forms, like newspaper, televisions or magazines are not at all handy in this modern era. This era is guided by mobile phones and so news. The quickest choice for yourself to get refreshed or updated by the happenings in the news app. Talking about blogs, it is also one of the best ways to showcase our writing skills and also helps to put forward our thoughts. Here in our app, we have sections for both. User can send their thoughts and writing via mail and it can be further published through our magazine section. The principle focus of our app (BLOG PRIME) is to gather reports, review them and present them to the user in the best possible way.

Index Terms -Android, Blogging, Coverage, Magazine, News Apps.

I. INTRODUCTION

Smartphones or tablets, both have become handy for today's generation. According to 'Statista' reports (2021), active users of mobile phones or tablets is ought to become 760 million in this current year and it is bound to increase to 970 million in the year 2025. In this digital era, online news has seen growth more than that of print media. Mobile apps have revolutionized the consumption of news. News apps are flourishing and have seen tremendous growth. Talking about India, news app has found their base by showing news in various formats and languages. Blogs are a good way to show up the emotions of the writers to the users. Blogs help to interact and also share one's life experiences with others. We have grown our interest in reading other people's real-life experiences and getting leaner towards digital means of communication. Websites display pictures, text or animations but offer zero participation from the user's side but on the other hand, blogging provides the user with facilities to share their experiences and enhance their writing skills.

We have developed an android app that displays news along with a section for blogs. Android is used to develop simple applications with the help of programming languages namely Java or Kotlin and XML(Extensible Markup Language). Android is a platform that helps us run the structured application. We have used the android studio to make our application. Android studio helps us integrate different modules so that we can get the desired result later. Android studio makes the app development process easy and fast. The drag and drop feature for the user interface and the java code auto-completion feature for the backend has made android studio easy to understand and use. In the future, we can also integrate new modules or features to enhance the efficiency and appearance of the app.

In our app, we have provided a login page for the user and the admin with different layouts. User can interact with the app where the admin can manage login. We have used Java and XML for the development of the front end of our application and for the backend we have used SQLite. We have four main modules and four modules that are there for the features. The main modules are namely login page, a news feed, magazine and coverage. The features are text to speech, bookmarks, share and breaking news. Admin page is used to handle the news and magazine page from the back end.

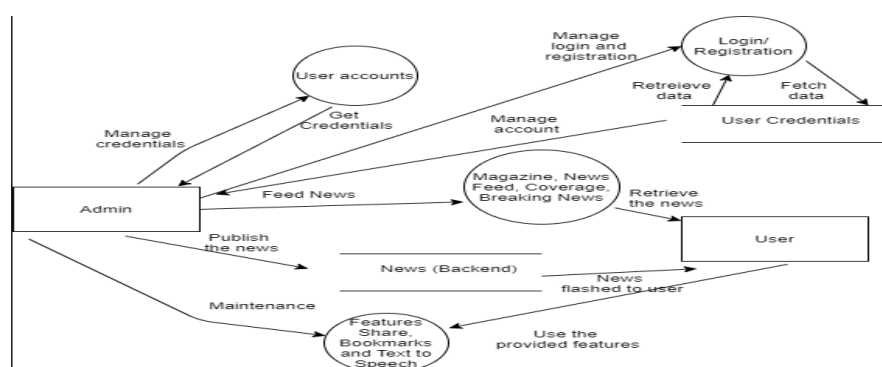


Figure 1 Overview of App

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Print media for example newspapers or magazines have suffered a lot before the arrival of smartphones or tablets. Televisions and radios have had a great impact on the growth of print media. Print media are slow whereas, on the other hand, talking about the online world, internet users instantly get to know about the situations from all around the world. We the youth have reduced the consumption of print media and shifted towards online platforms because youth are the fast learners in terms of technology and are more comfortable using it. As a solution to this issue, many of the newspaper agencies have started their online presence along with their offline existence (Pradeep Tewari, 2016). Internet users have grown and will grow in the coming future. Smartphones and tablets provide some great platforms for news app as users can get a glance of the current happening from around the world no matter where the user resides.

News consumption pattern has transformed completely with the arrival of new technology and the internet. Most of the active internet user get a glance at the news from the app or they even get in the depth of the news. This process has shifted a lot of users to online media rather than print media (Marios Constantinides, John Dowell, David Johnson, Sylvain Malacria, 2015). Youth are supporting online news such as news apps because they are easy to access and available 24/7 (Oscar Westlund, 2008). There is a growing interest in technology among users in various fields such as sports, entertainment, lifestyle, global, surroundings, technology and environment (Oscar Westlund, 2008; Constantiou, 2006; Ohlsson, 2007). News is popular content in the world of the internet and is widely served to consumers via different social media platforms. News app is not the latest extension of the print media but its features like serving the people according to their area of interest, text to speech features, share feature, etc. these are on the list of the enhancing news app capability for the users. Technology in the world is growing very fast and thus people are connected instantly. Most of the people today already have the services of smartphones or tablets along with fast internet and thus we want to know about the happenings quickly (Brijesh Joshi, 2018; Nehal Patel, 2018).

Considering blogging, it has also seen a huge boom. People from around the world are fond of writing and sharing their thoughts and experiences. Here blogging plays an important role that provides the platform to the users for blogging. People update their blogs regularly like about in a month or so. Blogging helps the user to enhance their way of writing, their words and vocabulary and the modules of their writing part (Hashem A. Alsamadani, 2018). Blogging is a good way of reflecting on your thoughts to a larger audience and improve their critical thinking skills (McGrail & Davis, 2011). Blogging as a tool is of great help for the learners (Hashem A. Alsamadani, 2017, Aydin, 2014). People seem interested in sharing their content on social media platforms in the form of blogging so that it reaches a wider set of audience. Expressing the self is the most niche form of existence of humans. An audience of the blogger may or may not be a known person to the blogger (Michael Jones, 2008; Irit Alony, 2008). It doesn't matter if a person is known or not, the expression of the blogger is delivered smoothly to the readers. You let the world know about you through self-expression (Turgeon 2004) also one can express their emotions very effectively (Nardi, Schiano et al. 2004). Bloggers can write concerning public interest or according to their specific field of interest (Clyde, 2006).

TABLE 1 CONCLUSION OF DIFFERENT PAPERS

Name of researchers	Description	Conclusion / Founding
John Dowell, David Johnson, Sylvain Malacria (2015)	The use of internet devices like mobiles and tablets are on a boom and thus personalized news app becomes relevant here.	Patterns of news reading and interaction were recognized. Each user can be categorized from the results that were based on the method to monitor the individual's reading pattern based on the three adaptive interfaces.
Michael Jones, Irit Alony (2008)	Blogs have more potential as they play an important role in our surrounding by providing data for future research work.	Blogs are the rich source of potential data on various types of topics that are helpful for research work. Blogs can be used as a research instrument.
Pradeep Tewari (2016)	Comparison of the users of print media with the users of online news apps According to a survey, we have more users of print media but to talk about online news app, they are making their base stronger in the market day by day.	India has already overtaken the US and is just behind China in terms of internet users and this would shift the interest of users to online newspapers. The youth are the main users and play an important role in online newspapers. However, print media has maintained its position in the market as well.
Oscar Westlund (2008)	This article is concerning the dispersion and variation of the innovation in mobile technology with editorial news content.	Mobile or tablets service is always connected to the internet and news articles are consumed with no limitations regarding time and date. the device is a new medium to them. Internet devices like mobiles are a new medium to the users and thus it refers to them as a new way of news consumption.

Leen d'Haenens, Nicholas Jankowski, Ard Heuvelman (2004)	This article is regarding the study of contrast of utilization and review of the news in the Netherlands concerning the print form and online variant paper.	A study was conducted in the Netherlands that shows that there were no such consistent results to differentiate the readers in terms of news consumption and its recalling. It seemed to be dependent on the gender of the reader and their interest in a topic and also the news category they want to view.
Hashem A. Alsamadani (2017)	The article explores the effectiveness of blogging on the students and also compares the impact of blogging on group bloggers and individual bloggers.	The results reveal that how blogging has helped revolutionized the learning and teaching methodology of teachers and students and helps in improving their writing skills, writing style and choice of words. The study in this paper reveals that the people who prefer working in a group have developed better writing skills than the people who prefer working as an individual.

III. RELATED WORK

Blog Prime is a free app available for users. For the existing news app, we have one that is expensive and mostly their news is reviewed and edited by their editors and thus they provide their side of the story. This influences a lot of people around. Many news apps lack the story from the other side of the picture. In our app, we have combined the essence of both blogging and news consumption. People can send their write-ups and share their thinking and views on topic about their interest or any public interest. News can also be published by admin from the backend. We have one module named Magazine that gives a summary of articles about a topic which we want to publish or any ideas we get from the user. We have an admin page for the same and also it manages news like to delete, modify or add some new news or existing news. We can also have our news localised in our application.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

System Model (Use Case Diagram)

A UML Use case diagram is the simplest way to represent the interactions between the user and the admin. There is a system boundary and it is both a textual and visual depiction of an application. Set of actions and the user actions are limited by the system boundary.

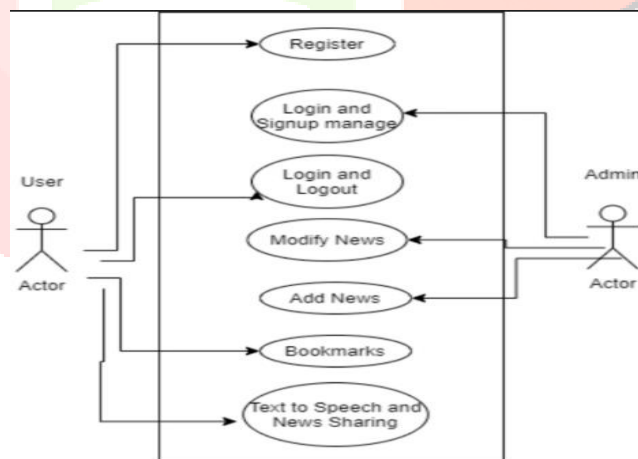


FIGURE 2 USE CASE DIAGRAM

V. MODULES

User Interface

The user interface of a successful application is its interactive user interface. It helps the user to view the news and use the implemented features. The news feed section of the app shows a little portion of the news and after a click, it shows the full article with the feature to share, add to bookmarks and text to speech. Similar is the module coverage but it does not include much picture whereas the new feed module does. The cover portion is vertically oriented with the list of news items. The login page helps the user as well as the admin to jump to their page of interest. The magazine portion has the articles posted or suggested by the user. We have also provided a registration page for user to register themselves before they start to use our app.

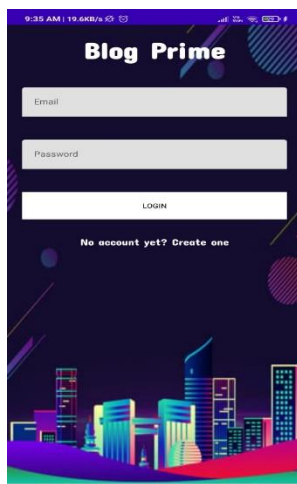


FIGURE 3 LOGIN PAGE



FIGURE 4 MAGAZINE

Admin Page

This portion helps to maintain the login of users and also the news content. We can add or modify the news from here also we can add articles to the magazine portion of the app. Writers can delete or edit the articles as per their requirement from the database. It also helps to add or remove the user from login further.

Features Included

News Feed

Here the news is displayed with a little description with a picture and a title. This will enable the user to get their news of interest.

Text to Speech

This is present in the elaborated form can be also accessed by the artificial production of a human voice. This feature can help differently-abled persons or also normal people who are busy and have no time to read so they can use this feature to listen to the news.

Bookmarks

It helps the user to add some particular news to separate bookmarks page so that in future they want to need to search it and can access it easily. It helps the user to save time.

Share

This helps the user to share the articles on social media platforms.

Breaking News

This portion shows the user the most trending news at that current time.

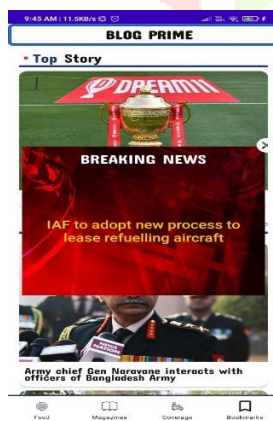


FIGURE 5 BREAKING NEWS AND NEWS FEED

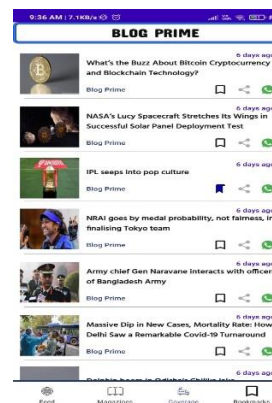


FIGURE 6 COVERAGE

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Apps are always user-friendly. News apps are widely used to remain up to date with the surroundings in the easiest and fastest way possible. We as youth feel very comfortable using new technology for our day to day activity. The use of smart devices has increased rapidly and thus getting a glance at happenings that are going around. Blogging helps people with their writing skills, thinking skills

and also growing their vocabulary. Blogging is recommended because it helps grow people's view about a topic. It is also a good way to help people in their research. Blogging will also help users to learn and how to interact with their readers.

VII. FUTURE WORK

This can be localised for people by adding the location-specific news for the people. Offline reading for the users can be implemented for the users where internet connectivity is an issue. A filter can be implemented for user to choose from the list of topics present in the magazine section. Blogging has a vast scope and it will tremendous growth in the near future.

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