FAKE NEWS ALERT

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Nowadays most of us have an easy access to the internet and different social media platforms. Have you ever seen an article or shared information that you’re not sure if it is true or proven? How can we identify the authenticity of a news or information?

In order to identify what is fake news, we must dig in to its definition first. According to Wikipedia “Fake news, also known as junk news, pseudo-news, alternative facts or hoax news, is a form of news consisting of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional news media or online social media. Now that we know the definition of fake news lets proceed to the two kinds of fake news.

There are two types of fake news. The first one is the create your own news; these are stories that aren’t true or legit. It can be invented or designed to make others believed false information. The second is the skimming news; stories that have some truth but aren’t 100 percent accurate, it only quotes some parts of the whole story to attract and convince viewers of a certain point of view.

Now that we have an idea about fake news, we can now proceed on how to identify fake news. Fake news can be tricky most of the time. Separating facts from fiction accurately can seem intimidating. But following these simple steps and a little bit of effort can make a difference.

First on the list is to develop a critical mindset. One of the main characteristics of fake news is that it has a shock value effect that has a strong instinctive reaction that
could really catch you. So, developing a critical mindset is very crucial for you to keep your emotional response intact.

Second, is to check the source of the information. If you are unfamiliar with the source, do some digging. You may check the web address, grammar or spelling errors and web extension if you find it a bit strange.

Next step is to examine the evidence. A credible news will include plenty of facts and information from experts, surveys or statistics. It has a detailed, consistent and verified eye-witness accounts from people on the scene.

Another important matter to consider is don’t be deceived by photos and images. As stated in an article of website midtools.com “Modern editing software has made it easy for people to create fake images that look real. In fact, research shows that only half of us can tell when images are fake. However, there are some warning signs you can look out for. Strange shadows on the image, for example, or jagged edges around a figure.” There are many different applications and tools wherein you can edit photos, images and even videos. So, it’s a must to stay vigilant and do some research before hitting that share button.

Last but not the least check if it sounds right. Finally, use your common sense! Keep in mind that fake news is designed to "feed" your biases, hopes or fears. Don’t be fooled by your emotions and assumptions. Refrain from doing the same mistakes again and again, instead take time to follow these simple advices on how to spot fake news.

References:

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