

People Reports: A Community News Portal

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ABSTRACT

People Reports serves as a community-oriented news platform that enables individuals to create, share, and explore news articles across diverse categories, including sports, politics, entertainment, technology, and world news. In the evolving landscape of digital media, community-driven journalism has emerged as a powerful medium for disseminating localized and real-time information. This paper presents the design and development of People Reports, a web-based news portal that empowers users to generate, publish, and distribute news content across multiple categories. The system incorporates an administrative approval mechanism to ensure content credibility and reduce the spread of misinformation. Users can access approved posts through their personalized dashboards, filter news by category or date, and perform keyword-based searches. Additionally, integration with social media platforms enhances the reach and visibility of published content. The system also includes comprehensive user profile management features, enabling users to update personal information, maintain password security, and delete their accounts if desired. From the administrative perspective, the platform provides tools for user management, content moderation, and statistical tracking of both published and pending articles.

Keywords:

Digital News Portal, User-Generated Content, Content Moderation, News Categorization.

I. INTRODUCTION

The rise of digital platforms has initiated a significant transformation in the production, distribution, and consumption of news media. Traditional broadcasting channels, despite their authoritative nature, frequently limit public engagement and hinder the diversity of voices. In contrast, community-driven platforms provide an ideal environment for participatory journalism, allowing individuals to move beyond being mere consumers and to take on the role of active storytellers. The People Reports platform exemplifies

this innovative approach by offering a digital news portal that integrates user-generated content with administrative oversight. The system functions on a dual-stakeholder model that includes contributors (users) and administrators. Contributors are given the ability to register, verify their identity, and create news articles across various categories, including political discussions, technological advancements, global issues, and cultural happenings. Submitted articles are directed to the administrative section, where they are evaluated to ensure accuracy, relevance, and adherence to community guidelines. Approved stories are smoothly incorporated into the user

interactive news cards that feature detailed views, time-based filtering, keyword-sensitive searches, and sharing options.

Administrators, on the other hand, maintain oversight through an advanced dashboard that aggregates system metrics, user management, and content curation. Key metrics such as the total number of published articles, the volume of pending submissions, and active user statistics provide a comprehensive view of the portal's health. This governance structure guarantees that while the platform is open to community contributions, it also maintains integrity, transparency, and quality control.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW/RELATED WORK

The swift advancement of digital technologies has revolutionized the manner in which news is produced, disseminated, and consumed. Conventional news organizations are progressively being supplemented or supplanted by digital news platforms that offer real-time, multimedia-rich information accessible to a global audience. Numerous studies have highlighted the benefits of online platforms in providing immediate news updates and enhancing audience interaction through features such as commenting, sharing, and personalized recommendations [1].

A notable trend in recent years is the emergence of User-Generated Content (UGC). Platforms like Reddit, Medium, and citizen journalism websites empower everyday users to contribute, thus democratizing the news landscape [2]. Research indicates that UGC fosters community involvement and improves coverage of local events that are frequently neglected by mainstream media [3]. Nevertheless, challenges persist in ensuring the credibility and reliability of such content. To combat misinformation and uphold platform integrity, content moderation strategies have been established across various portals. Studies emphasize both manual and automated moderation methods—ranging from administrator approval systems to sophisticated AI-driven fake news detection models [4]. In community-oriented platforms, moderation is crucial to filter out inappropriate, irrelevant, or misleading content prior to publication.

Another critical element is news categorization, which allows users to navigate articles based on topics such as politics, sports, entertainment, and technology. Prior research [5] has shown that categorization improves user satisfaction by facilitating quicker and more relevant content retrieval. Furthermore, the incorporation of features like search filters, date-based browsing, and social media sharing has been proven to enhance user engagement and broaden content reach. Although current platforms and research offer significant insights, many tend to concentrate on either major news organizations or social media platforms. The suggested system, People Reports, addresses this gap by establishing a community-oriented news portal that combines user-generated content (UGC), administrator-led moderation, news categorization, and social sharing functionalities within a unified framework. In contrast to conventional portals, it enables users to function as both contributors and consumers while maintaining credibility through moderation.

III. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. System Architecture:

The proposed system is designed with a three-tier architecture, which includes the Presentation Layer (Frontend), the Application Layer (Backend), and the Database Layer. This architectural approach guarantees modularity, scalability, and effective communication among the various components.

Presentation Layer (Frontend):

The frontend is constructed using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Tailwind CSS, offering a responsive and user-friendly interface. Users have the ability to register, login, submit news articles, explore categorized content, and manage their profiles. The design emphasizes simplicity and accessibility to facilitate smooth navigation.

Application Layer (Backend):

The backend is developed using PHP within the XAMPP server environment. This layer is responsible for managing business logic, including news submission, content approval, filtering, and user authentication. Additionally, the admin dashboard is integrated into this layer, allowing administrators to approve or reject user-submitted news, manage users, and oversee platform statistics.

Database Layer:

The MySQL database is utilized to store all system data, encompassing user details, news articles, categories, approvals, and statistics. A well-structured database design guarantees data consistency, security, and efficient retrieval during user queries (such as search and filtering by date or category).

3.2. Methodology

The development methodology adopts a modular, process-oriented strategy, guaranteeing that each system component is designed and tested independently prior to integration.

User Module – Comprehensive Overview

The User Module is crafted to deliver a smooth and engaging experience for the community members of the People Reports platform. Its primary aim is to empower users to contribute, access, and manage news content effectively while ensuring they retain control over their personal information and preferences.

1. User Registration and Login

Registration: New users can register by providing essential information such as username, email, and password. Validation processes are in place to maintain data integrity (e.g., unique email addresses, strong password criteria).

Login: Registered users can securely access their accounts using their credentials. Session management guarantees secure entry to their personalized dashboard.

Authentication: Safeguards the platform against unauthorized access, ensuring that only verified users can post news or utilize specific features.

2. Personalized Dashboard

Upon logging in, users are directed to a dashboard that serves as their main hub for interacting with the platform.

Approved News Display: Displays news articles that have been approved by the admin in an attractive card format. Users can click "Read More" to view the complete content.

Interactive Features: Users have the ability to filter news by categories (Sports, Politics, Entertainment, Technology, World, etc.) or by date/month/year, facilitating the discovery of relevant content.

3. Create and Manage News Posts

News Submission: Users can generate new posts by entering a title, content, and selecting a suitable category.

Workflow: Submitted news is forwarded to the admin for approval. Users can monitor the status of their submissions (pending, **approved, rejected**).

Preview Feature: Users can preview their posts prior to submission to ensure accuracy and completeness.

4. Content Filtering and Search

Filtering Options: Users can filter news articles based on specific categories or chosen date ranges.

Search Functionality: Users can search for news articles by title or keywords, with related articles dynamically presented to enhance user engagement.

Admin Module

The Admin Module serves as the primary management system of the platform, providing the administrator with comprehensive control over user activities, content, and the overall health of the platform. It guarantees content quality, accountability, and operational transparency.

1. Admin Dashboard Overview

The admin dashboard acts as the central hub for overseeing and managing the platform. Key sections include:

Pending Posts

Displays all user-submitted posts awaiting review.

The admin has the ability to approve, reject, or return posts for revision.

User Management

Access a list of all registered users along with details such as username, email, role, and account status.

View user information: update profile details or reset passwords.

Role assignment: elevate users to moderators or withdraw permissions.

Monitor user activity, including the number of posts submitted and the approval rate.

2. Statistical Overview / Analytics Presents key metrics:

- Total published articles
- Total pending posts
- Active users
- Posts per category
- User engagement metrics
- Graphical representations such as charts and tables for rapid insights.
- Assign posts to categories for effective organization.
- Track the popularity of each category.
- Content Moderation
- Identify and manage inappropriate content (spam, offensive language, fake news).
- Enable automatic flagging for sensitive content.
- Review flagged comments and posts.
- Inform the admin of new posts, reported content, or critical system updates.

Security Features:

The system guarantees security by employing session-based authentication, password encryption, and restricted access for unauthorized users.

IV. DATA FLOW DIAGRAM

A Data flow diagram illustrates the flow of data between users, the admin, and the database. Users submit news posts that flow to the admin for verification. Once approved, data is retrieved from the database and displayed on the user dashboard (Level 0):

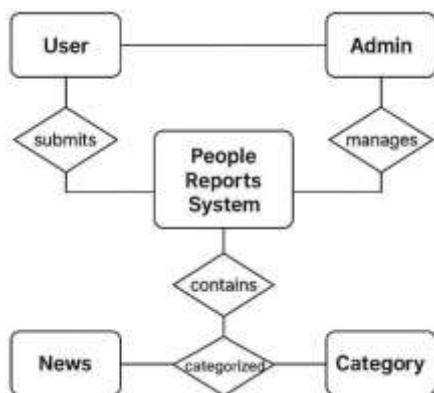


Figure 4: Context Diagram (Level 0)

The context diagram illustrates the overall interaction between the People Reports System and its external entities, showing the flow of data and information at the highest level. It represents how users and administrators communicate with the system.

4.1 Data Flow Diagram

A Data Flow Diagram (DFD) illustrates the flow of data between users, the admin, and the database. Users submit news posts that flow to the admin for verification. Once approved, data is retrieved from the database and displayed on the user dashboard.

The Level 1 DFD breaks down the People Reports System into its major functional components, showing how users and admins interact with the core processes.

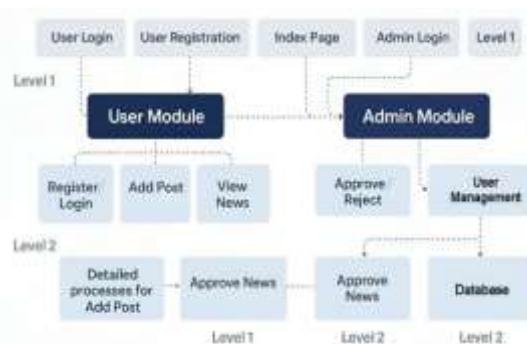


Figure 4.1: Data Flow Diagram (Level 1&2)

The Level 2 DFD expands the major processes especially User Authentication, News Submission, and News Approval — into detailed sub-processes to show internal system operations.

4.2 Entity-Relationship (ER) Diagram

An Entity-Relationship (ER) Diagram represents entities such as User, News Article, Category, and Admin, linked by relational attributes that define how



data is stored and accessed across the system.

Figure 4.2: ER Diagram Details

The Entity-Relationship Diagram (ERD) represents the logical structure of the People Reports database.

It shows how users, admins, news posts, and categories interact with each other through defined relationships

V. IMPLEMENTATION

The project was developed using Visual Studio Code as the primary code editor. It runs on a system equipped with an Intel Core i3 (11th Generation) processor, 8 GB RAM, and 256 GB SSD, operating on Windows 11. The local environment is managed using XAMPP 8.0.19, which integrates Apache 2.4, PHP 8.1.7, and MySQL 8.0.

The implementation process involved creating separate modules for user and admin operations. Frontend pages were designed using Tailwind CSS for responsiveness, while backend logic was scripted in PHP to handle authentication, data validation, and database operations. MySQL was used for storing news articles, user details, and post statuses. Testing confirmed smooth performance, secure authentication, and accurate data management across the portal.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The People Reports system was successfully implemented and tested across different browsers, including Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge. The portal demonstrated fast response times and intuitive navigation. User interactions such as post creation, approval viewing, and profile management operated efficiently without data loss.

Administrators were able to effectively manage users

and moderate content through the admin dashboard. The inclusion of date-based filters and keyword searches improved accessibility and user experience. Overall, the platform achieved its goal of combining participatory journalism with structured moderation to deliver a reliable community news experience.

Performance Evaluation Graph

Purpose: To show the performance results, e.g., response time or accuracy across different modules.

Example chart:

- X-axis: Features (Login, Create Post, View News, Search, Filter)
- Y-axis: Average Response Time (seconds)
- Bars show that all actions execute under ~2 seconds.



VII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The People Reports platform exemplifies the capabilities of community-driven journalism by merging user involvement with effective administrative supervision. By enabling individuals to submit news articles while guaranteeing that the content is vetted for credibility and relevance, the system adeptly maintains a balance between inclusivity and quality assurance. Features such as profile management, category-based filtering, interactive news cards, and user comments promote engagement and accessibility, rendering the portal both dynamic and user-friendly. Concurrently, the administrator's capacity to manage users, moderate content, and oversee system performance guarantees transparency and dependability. In conclusion, People Reports positions itself as a contemporary, participatory news portal that connects traditional news sources with unregulated social media, cultivating a credible, interactive, and community-oriented space for information sharing.

FUTURE WORK

The User Comments functionality allows registered users to express their opinions and feedback directly on specific news articles.

Each comment submitted by a user is recorded in the system with a pending status until it is reviewed by the administrator. The administrator has the authority to either approve or reject the comment to uphold content quality and credibility. Once a comment is approved, it is displayed beneath the corresponding news article on the details page, whereas rejected comments are kept hidden. This scope guarantees that the platform fosters constructive discussions, promotes community engagement, and curtails the dissemination of spam or inappropriate content.

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