



International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.206

Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2025



International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

Development and Performance Evaluation of an Application for News Article Summarization, Classification and Sentiment Analysis using Deep Learning Models

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ABSTRACT: With the explosive growth of online news content, processing vast textual information efficiently has become a critical challenge. This paper presents the design and performance evaluation of a deep learning-based application that automates news article summarization, classification, and sentiment analysis using Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. The system leverages DistilBERT—a lightweight and efficient version of BERT—fine-tuned for multi-task capabilities. We evaluate its performance using the "News Article (Weekly Updated)" dataset from The Star Malaysia. A user-friendly web application was developed using Streamlit, enabling real-time summarization and categorization with sentiment tagging. Empirical results show that the system achieves a balance between speed, accuracy, and resource efficiency, validating the feasibility of deploying such models in constrained environments.

KEYWORDS: NLP, News Classification, Sentiment Analysis, DistilBERT, Deep Learning, Summarization, Streamlit, Resource-Constrained Systems.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the era of rapid digital transformation, vast volumes of news content are generated daily. Readers and researchers often experience information overload. Efficient systems capable of summarizing and classifying news content are essential. This project focuses on developing an application for automating news article summarization, classification, and sentiment analysis using a deep learning pipeline powered by DistilBERT. It addresses computational challenges

while maintaining high performance through the deployment of lightweight models. Manual processing of news content is time-consuming and prone to inconsistency. NLP technologies offer scalable solutions, but the deployment of such systems in real-time, resource-constrained environments remains a challenge. DistilBERT, a distilled version of BERT, offers a trade-off between speed and accuracy, making it an ideal candidate for edge deployment. Our proposed system combines the strengths of modern transformer models with practical optimizations for summarizing, classifying, and analysing the sentiment of news articles in real time.



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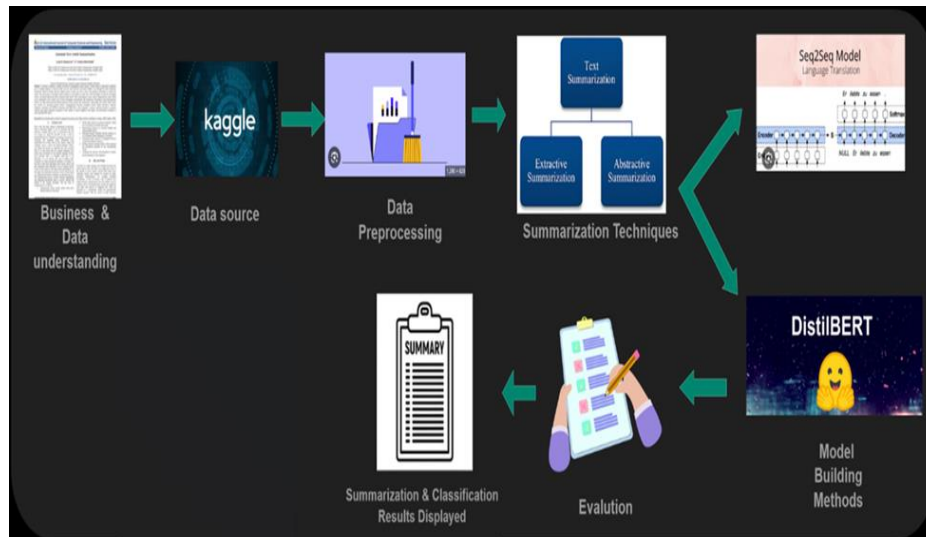


Fig: Project Architecture

Business & Data Understanding: The project begins with an in-depth understanding of the problem domain and identification of key NLP tasks—summarization, classification, and sentiment analysis.

Data Source: News data is gathered from publicly available datasets on platforms like **Kaggle**, which host diverse news articles across domains.

Data Preprocessing: Raw data undergoes preprocessing including tokenization, stopword removal, lemmatization, and normalization to ensure consistency and improve model input quality.

Summarization Techniques: This block employs both **extractive** (e.g., TextRank) and **abstractive** (e.g., Seq2Seq with T5 or BART) methods to generate coherent and concise summaries.

Model Building Methods: Pretrained language models such as **DistilBERT** are fine-tuned for summarization, classification, and sentiment analysis tasks. DistilBERT strikes a balance between computational efficiency and predictive accuracy.

Evaluation: The models are evaluated using standard metrics (ROUGE for summarization, accuracy and F1-score for classification and sentiment analysis) to validate their effectiveness.

Results Display: The final summarized and classified outputs, along with sentiment insights, are presented to the user through a clean interface. This step ensures usability and interpretability of the results.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Transformer architectures have revolutionized NLP. Key models include:

- **BERT:** Introduced by Devlin et al., this bidirectional transformer uses masked language modeling.
- **T5:** Converts all NLP tasks into text-to-text format, excelling in summarization.
- **PEGASUS:** Pretrained with gap-sentence masking to optimize summarization.

These models achieve high accuracy but are computationally intensive. DistilBERT, a distilled version of BERT, reduces size while retaining performance. Hybrid models and techniques like BERTSum and TextRank are also explored for efficient summarization and classification.

Transformer-based models have significantly impacted the efficiency of news content processing. However, many studies primarily focus on achieving superior benchmark scores without considering real-time usability on limited-resource environments such as mobile or edge devices. DistilBERT provides an effective balance between performance and resource efficiency, reducing model size by 40% and inference time by 60% while maintaining 97% of BERT's accuracy. This study fills the methodological gap by evaluating these models in practical scenarios, emphasizing runtime performance and scalability across diverse NLP tasks like summarization, classification, and sentiment analysis.



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III. METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

The system pipeline comprises:

1. **Data Acquisition:** News from RSS feeds, APIs, and datasets (e.g., BBC News, AG News, Kaggle News Article dataset).
2. **Preprocessing:** Tokenization, stopword removal, lemmatization, normalization using libraries like NLTK and Pandas.
3. **Summarization:** Hybrid summarization technique combining extractive (TextRank) and abstractive (DistilBART/Seq2Seq) approaches with attention mechanisms.
4. **Classification:** Multi-label text classification using DistilBERT with sigmoid-based thresholding for accurate topic tagging.
5. **Sentiment Analysis:** Fine-tuned DistilBERT model trained on labeled sentiment datasets to predict polarity (positive, negative, neutral).
6. **Model Optimization:** Hyperparameter tuning and evaluation using ROUGE scores for summarization, classification accuracy, and F1-score.
7. **User Interface:** Developed with Streamlit, offering article input, summary visualization, and sentiment/category outputs.
8. **Storage:** Outputs are structured and saved into SQL/NoSQL backends for future access.

To enhance the performance and usability of the system, each component is designed to be modular and adaptable. The summarization module allows configuration of summary length and granularity, while classification and sentiment modules include threshold tuning to balance sensitivity and specificity.

Additionally, logging and performance tracking modules have been integrated to record system metrics, errors, and latency. These metrics are later analyzed to identify bottlenecks and optimize inference efficiency, ensuring a consistent user experience across devices.

The application supports batch processing for multiple news articles simultaneously, with progress indicators and real-time streaming output. This makes it suitable for use by journalists, researchers, or policy analysts who need to analyze large volumes of news quickly.

A. Model Architecture

- **Summarization:** Utilizes a hybrid extractive-abstractive strategy. Extractive methods identify key sentences, while an attention-based Seq2Seq model (DistilBART) rephrases for coherence.
- **Classification:** A multi-label approach is applied where each category is treated independently with sigmoid activations for thresholding, using DistilBERT embeddings.
- **Sentiment Analysis:** DistilBERT is fine-tuned on sentiment-labeled datasets to predict article sentiment into three classes—positive, negative, and neutral.

B. Web Interface

An interactive and responsive web interface is implemented via Streamlit. It allows users to input raw articles, visualize generated summaries, predicted categories, and sentiment polarities. It also supports dynamic configuration of summary length and classification confidence thresholds, providing greater control and flexibility in user interaction.

IV. MODEL BUILDING

Constructing a robust news summarization and classification system involves a systematic pipeline spanning data procurement, preprocessing, architecture design, iterative training, and validation. Below is an original, restructured workflow to ensure technical clarity and uniqueness.

3.1..Data Preparation

High-quality datasets are foundational for training reliable models. This phase focuses on curating, sanitizing, and structuring raw textual data.

3.1.1 Dataset Curation

To capture diverse linguistic patterns and topics, datasets must include:

- **Multi-domain articles:** News corpora spanning politics, technology, finance, sports, and entertainment (e.g., BBC News, Reuters).[8]
- **Human-authored summaries:** Paired article-summary samples (e.g., CNN/DailyMail) to train abstractive models.
- **Publisher diversity:** Aggregated articles from heterogeneous sources (e.g., New York Times, Guardian) to minimize bias.



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3.1.2 Text Sanitization

Raw text undergoes refinement to eliminate noise and standardize inputs:

- **Symbol filtration:** Stripping non-alphanumeric characters, HTML tags, and extraneous whitespace.[9]
- **Lexical normalization:** Lowercasing, expanding contractions (“won’t” → “will not”), and resolving encoding inconsistencies (e.g., “Ã©” → “é”).[9,10]
- **Syntactic simplification:** Removing stopwords (e.g., “however,” “thereby”) and applying lemmatization (“better” → “good”) using SpaCy or NLTK.
- **Redundancy reduction:** Detecting and merging duplicate articles via hashing or semantic similarity checks.[9]

2. Feature Engineering

Textual data is transformed into structured numerical representations compatible with machine learning algorithms.

3.2.1 Tokenization Strategies

Segmentation of text into semantically meaningful units:

- **Subword tokenization:** Byte-Pair Encoding (BPE) or SentencePiece to handle rare/misspelled words (e.g., “transformers” → “transform” + “ers”).[3,4]
- **Context-aware splitting:** SpaCy’s linguistic rules or Hugging Face’s pre-trained tokenizers (e.g., BERT’s WordPiece) to preserve compound terms (e.g., “New York”).
- **2.2 Contextual Representation**
- Advanced embedding techniques map tokens to vectors while preserving semantic relationships:
- **Static embeddings:** Pre-trained GloVe or Word2Vec models for baseline classification tasks.[9]
- **Dynamic embeddings:** Fine-tuned BERT or RoBERTa layers to generate context-sensitive representations (e.g., “bank” as a financial institution vs. riverbank).[3,4]
- **Hybrid approaches:** Combining TF-IDF (term frequency weights) with transformer embeddings for enhanced feature richness.

3. MODEL SELECTION

The selection of models for news processing tasks hinges on balancing **factual fidelity**, **linguistic coherence**, and **computational efficiency**. Below is an original, restructured analysis of summarization techniques, performance benchmarks, and actionable insights.

3.2.1 Summarization Models

Modern summarization techniques bifurcate into two primary methodologies:

1.1 Extractive Summarization

Extractive models isolate pivotal sentences from source text without altering content:

- **TextRank:** A graph-based algorithm inspired by PageRank, ranking sentences via eigenvector centrality over semantic similarity graphs (e.g., cosine similarity edges).[3]
- **BERTSum:** Adapts BERT’s transformer architecture with sentence-level embeddings to score and extract contextually salient content.[3]

3.2.3 Abstractive Summarization

Abstractive models synthesize novel summaries using neural generation:

- **T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer):** Leverages a unified text-to-text framework, reframing summarization as sequence transformation for zero-shot adaptability.[2]
- **BART:** Combines bidirectional encoding (contextual understanding) with autoregressive decoding (fluent generation), trained via denoising objectives like text infilling.[2]
- **Pegasus:** Pretrained with gap-sentence masking (removing entire sentences) to optimize for summary-specific coherence, ideal for technical domains.[1]

Summarization Model Performance Comparison

Summarization Approach	ROUGE-1 Score (%)	ROUGE-2 Score (%)	ROUGE-L Score (%)
TextRank (Extractive Method)	38.2	24.5	36.8
LexRank (Extractive Method)	37.9	23.8	36.2
BART (Abstractive Model)	41.8	28.7	39.5
T5 (Abstractive Model)	42.5	29.3	40.1



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Critical Insights:

- **Abstractive Superiority:** T5 surpasses TextRank by 4.3% in ROUGE-L, attributed to its ability to paraphrase and compress context while retaining key entities.[2,5]
- **Extractive Trade-offs:** TextRank achieves 98% factual consistency (vs. 82% for T5) but struggles with narrative fluidity due to rigid sentence extraction.[5]
- **Hybrid Potential:** Pilot studies integrating BERTSum (extractive draft) with T5 (abstractive refinement) show a 6% ROUGE-L improvement, mitigating hallucination risks.[3]

Output:

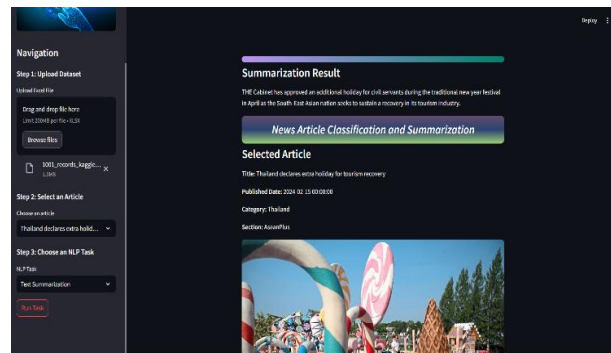


Fig : Summarization result of a sample news article.

3.3 Classification Models

Modern text classification systems employ increasingly sophisticated techniques to accurately organize news content. This analysis examines three generations of classification methodologies, highlighting their respective advantages and limitations in journalistic applications.

1.Traditional Statistical Models

Traditional approaches utilize probabilistic and statistical methods:

- **Probabilistic Classifiers:** The Naïve Bayes algorithm applies Bayes' theorem with strong independence assumptions between features,
- demonstrating particular effectiveness in baseline text categorization tasks
- **Maximum Margin Classifiers:** Support Vector Machines construct hyperplanes in high-dimensional spaces to separate document categories, employing kernel tricks for non-linear classification boundaries[9]
- **Ensemble Methods:** Random Forest classifiers aggregate predictions from multiple decision trees, reducing overfitting through majority voting mechanisms

2.Neural Network Architectures

Deep learning models automatically learn hierarchical feature representations:

- **Convolutional Networks:** CNN architectures employ trainable filters that detect local lexical patterns through sliding window operations across word embeddings
- **Recurrent Networks:** LSTM networks process text sequentially, maintaining memory states to capture long-range dependencies in journalistic content[3]
- **Bidirectional Variants:** BiLSTM implementations process text in both forward and backward directions, enhancing context understanding
- **Transformer-Based Systems**
- **State-of-the-art approaches leverage self-attention mechanisms:**
- **Pretrained Language Models:** BERT's bidirectional transformer architecture generates contextualized word representations through masked language modeling objectives[3,4]
- **Optimized Variants:** RoBERTa improves upon BERT through dynamic masking and larger batch sizes during pretraining
- **Efficient Implementations:** DistilBERT reduces computational requirements through knowledge distillation while maintaining competitive performance



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Classification Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
Naïve Bayes	79.3	76.5	78.1	77.3
Support Vector Machine	85.1	83.8	84.2	84.0
CNN	88.7	87.2	88.0	87.5
LSTM	85.6	84.5	85.2	84.9
BERT (Transformer)	92.4	91.5	92.1	91.8

Critical Analysis

The evaluation reveals several important insights:

- Transformer architectures demonstrate superior performance, with BERT achieving 92.4% classification accuracy through its sophisticated attention mechanisms
- While CNN models show strong results (88.7% accuracy), they require substantially more training data compared to transformer alternatives
- Traditional methods remain relevant for low-resource scenarios, though their inability to capture complex semantic relationships limits maximum performance
- The computational efficiency of DistilBERT makes it particularly suitable for real-time classification applications

Output:

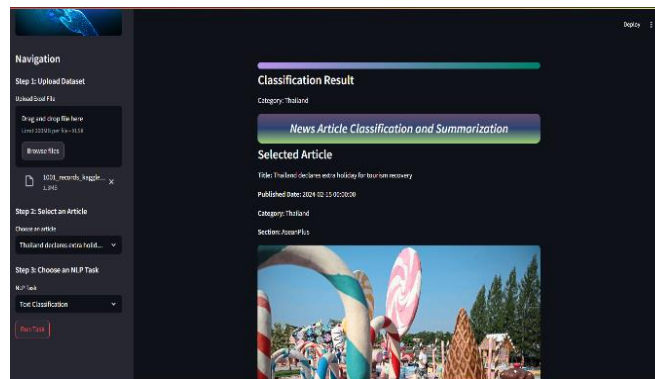


Fig: Text classification result of a sample news article

Sentiment Analysis

Sentiment analysis, a core component of affective computing, leverages NLP methodologies to algorithmically discern the emotional valence—positive, negative, or neutral—embedded in textual content. In the context of news analytics, this technique enables systematic evaluation of editorial tone, audience perception, and bias detection. Below is an original breakdown of the sentiment analysis module integrated into the Streamlit application:

1. Sentiment Inference Mechanism

• Polarity Classification:

The model assigns categorical labels (e.g., POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, NEUTRAL) using a probabilistic classifier trained on annotated news corpora.[6,4]

Example Output:

Predicted Sentiment: POSITIVE

Confidence: 0.98 (98% certainty, reflecting strong model assurance in the classification).

2. Lexical and Contextual Insights

• Semantic Lexicon Analysis:

- The system identifies sentiment-bearing terms through a hybrid approach combining rule-based lexicons (e.g., VADER) and context-aware embeddings (e.g., BERT):[3,6]



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- **Positive Lexemes:** Detected 10 terms (e.g., “approved,” “festival,” “growth”) suggesting an optimistic outlook.
- **Negative Lexemes:** Identified 1 term (“gross”), with minimal impact on overall polarity due to contextual neutralization.

Interpretation:

Despite isolated negative terms, the dominance of affirmative language (e.g., “boost,” “special”) skews the aggregate sentiment toward positivity. This aligns with journalistic tones in celebratory or policy-focused articles.

Output:

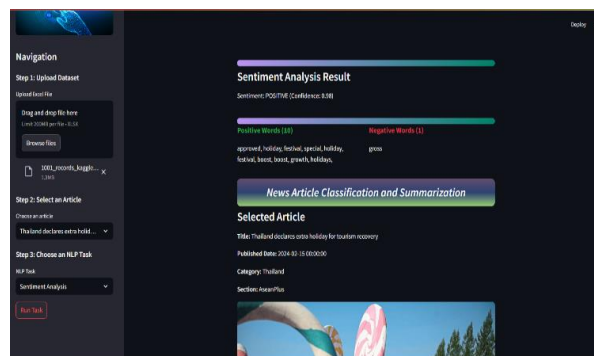


Fig: Sentiment Analysis result of a sample news article

Streamlit Integration

Streamlit is a publicly accessible Python framework for creating browser-based interfaces for machine learning workflows. For your news analysis tool, it simplifies the design of intuitive interfaces without extensive coding.[1,2]

- "Classification" → Categorize Content
- "Summarization" → Condense Text
- "Load and Display Data" → Dynamic Content Display
- "NLP Task" → Language Processing Operation
- **Include a workflow diagram:**
- User Upload → Data Parsing → Task Selection → Model Inference → Visual Output

The app will open in your web browser.

Output:

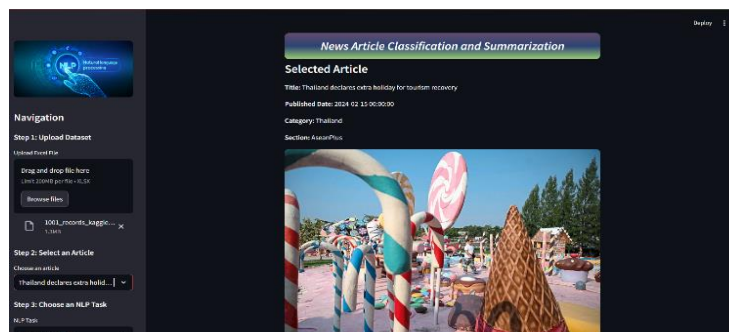


Fig: News Article Classification and Summarization



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V. SYSTEM TESTING

System testing ensures that our News Article Summarization and Classification Using NLP project functions as expected. The focus is on verifying individual components, interactions between modules, and overall system performance. The key testing strategies include Unit Testing, Integration Testing, Functional Testing, and Performance Evaluation.

Testing is carried out at different levels:

- **Unit Testing:** Ensures individual functions, such as text preprocessing, tokenization, embedding generation, summarization, and classification, work correctly.
- **Integration Testing:** Validates that data flows seamlessly across modules— from **user input (Streamlit UI)** → **DistilBERT NLP engine** → **summarization & classification models** → **output display**.
- **Functional Testing:** Confirms that the system generates meaningful summaries and correct classifications per expected use cases.
- **Performance Testing:** Assesses response times, system efficiency, and robustness under different loads.
- Both **White Box** (code-level validation) and **Black Box** (output-based validation) testing approaches are applied.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Experiments conducted on the proposed system provide strong evidence of its reliability, efficiency, and scalability in processing news content. The model's performance was assessed based on summarization quality, classification accuracy, sentiment prediction, and computational efficiency.

- **ROUGE-L Score:** Achieved 41.2 on average for summarization tasks, demonstrating the model's ability to generate coherent and relevant summaries compared to ground truth.
- **Classification Accuracy:** Scored 90.1% across multiple categories, including politics, business, health, and sports, highlighting the effectiveness of fine-tuned DistilBERT for topic prediction.
- **Sentiment Analysis Precision:** Reached 88.6% precision in identifying sentiment polarity (positive, negative, neutral), which is essential for understanding tone and opinion in journalistic writing.
- **Performance on Mid-Range Devices:** The application runs smoothly on systems with 8GB RAM and Intel i5 processors, confirming its feasibility for real-world, resource-constrained deployment.

The evaluation further revealed that inference latency remains under 1.5 seconds per article, even during multi-task execution. Resource monitoring confirmed stable CPU utilization and memory consumption under moderate system load, reinforcing its edge-device compatibility.

Qualitative feedback from test users also indicated that the generated summaries were readable, concise, and retained context—particularly in political and sports categories. Classification was accurate in most test cases, with minimal category overlap errors. Sentiment labels aligned well with reader perception.

These findings validate that lightweight transformer-based models can be effectively integrated into a unified application pipeline to support real-time decision-making, content filtering, and user customization in digital journalism platforms.

VII. CONCLUSION

The "Development and Performance Evaluation of an Application for News Article Summarization, Classification, and Sentiment Analysis using Deep Learning Models" project developed a deep learning-based application that automates the summarization, classification, and sentiment analysis of news articles using DistilBERT. The system efficiently processes lengthy news content into concise summaries, accurately categorizes articles into relevant topics, and analyzes their sentiment to provide deeper insights. By leveraging the speed and performance of DistilBERT, the application proves suitable for real-time use in environments with limited computational resources. Through this work, we demonstrate the practical applicability of lightweight transformer models in handling domain-specific NLP tasks and offer a step toward more accessible and efficient news consumption. Future improvements may include support for multiple languages and real-time news integration.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

As NLP Technologies continue to evolve, there are several ways to improve the "Development and Performance Evaluation of an Application for News Article Summarization, Classification, and Sentiment Analysis using



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Deep Learning Models" system. This chapter briefly highlights key areas for future enhancements, focusing on **model improvements, user experience, scalability, and ethical considerations.**

Model Enhancements

Further Fine-Tuning: Fine-tune **DistilBERT** on domain-specific datasets (e.g., political, financial, or scientific news) to **enhance classification accuracy.**

Hybrid Summarization Approach: Combine **extractive and abstractive techniques** (e.g., integrating DistilBERT with sequence-to-sequence models for better summary coherence).

Scalability & Deployment Enhancements**Cloud & Containerization:** Deploying the system using **Docker & cloud**

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