

An Anti-Cultism Social Education Media System

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Abstract—Social media online forum is one of the most popular platforms used by students to communicate. Unfortunately, these media have been hijacked by people to plan and commit online fraud and societal evils. Some of the secondary and university campuses in Nigeria have been turned to cultist environments leading to killings and anarchy amongst students. This situation has defied solutions in most tertiary institutions in the country, particularly in the public institutions. The objective of this paper is to provide an anti-cultism social media educational system that will be accessed using three modes: Web, Mobile and Voice. The system will support learning and interaction on campus while at the same time helping to curb cultism on campus through filtering of communicated social media keywords that are cultism or crime related, among students. In carrying out this project, appropriate research methods and implementation tools were deployed. The project offers a multimodal platform that will foster and encourage active learners' participation in the school system.

Keywords—Education, Anti-Cultism, Filtering, Social media

I. INTRODUCTION (HEADING 1)

In the 21st Century, the ability of students to participate in online learning is a key issue for stakeholders in the Nigerian education system because of its attendant benefits. As institutions continue to embrace ICT in service delivery, students have continued to engage these online communication resources to perpetuate crime and terrorism, particularly among innocent students' colleagues on campus. Terrorism is a term used to describe violence or other harmful acts. Walter Laqueur in 1999 counted over 100 definitions of terrorism and concludes that the only characteristic generally agreed upon is that terrorism involves violence and the threat of violence [1].

Campus cultism involves students who have been made to believe that they could get respect and power by initiating themselves into membership. Indeed, this has no benefits. Cultist groups include: The Pirates Confraternity, the Buccaneers, the Eiye Confraternity, the Neo-Black Movement of Africa, the Black Nationalist of Ife, the Vikings, the Mafia, Black Axe Night, the Black Cobra of Ife, Black Berret, Green Berret, and lately the Daughters of Jezebel.

In curtailing cultism using the application reported in this paper, as the users are

communicating with each using the forum and voice interaction, their conversations are recorded and forwarded to a remote server where a detailed analysis of the threat words are stored and processed for further investigation. An SMS is also sent to the administrator when the system encounters a threat word. The anti-cult system developed and discussed in this paper is a step towards providing solutions to societal vices facing higher education in Nigeria.

Next section is a brief review of related literature. The proposed model and implementation is presented and examined in section 3. The conclusion drawn is in section 4

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study by Osalusi et al. [2] examined the menace of secret cults in the Nigerian tertiary institutions. The origin of cultism was traced to the Seadog confraternity (a.k.a Pyrates), founded by Wole Soyinka and six others at the foremost University of Ibadan in 1952. It was meant to be peaceful and non-violent. However, in the 1980s it metamorphosed into a secret cult whose activities have been characterized by some bizarre and violent activities. It is believed that the first cult-related violent death occurred in 1984 [3]. The problems of the violence associated with "cultism" in tertiary got to the peak with the cruel massacre of five students of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in the early hours of July 10, 1999.

According to Gambo Dauda, the proliferation of secret societies and cultism has remained the most powerful instrument of attack in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The havoc being caused by these violent cultist activities in our universities and other tertiary institutions has become a source of worry and concern to students, lecturers, parents, guardians, government and the society at large. There are incidents of cultist activities on our campuses with oath-taking and blood sucking ceremonies. Cases of burglary, house breaking, rapes involving sons and daughters of highly placed members of the society are very rampant. These crimes are committed under the influence of drugs like cocaine, Indian hemp etc. Dangerous weapons such as guns, swords, spear, axes, knives, explosives are reported to be freely used by these secret cult members. The university environment which should thrive through exchange of intellectual and moral ideas has suddenly become a battle ground for violent activities.

The study by Chinwokwu [4] examines the concept of terrorism and the dilemmas facing the Nigerian State in combating domestic terrorism. The study also looks at some of the efforts of government at suppressing terrorism and the reasons those responses are ineffective. Some recommendations were highlighted in the research as follows: policy reforms, equipping and training of security personnel and harmonization of security operations.

Enem and Okonkwo [5] analyzed how data mining techniques can be adopted by law enforcement agencies in tracking the activities of terrorists and their criminal activities.

This study also examines the limitation of data mining in fighting crime in Nigeria.

There have been several reports [6-12], discussions and recommendations on how best to curb cultism in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria, but very few studies have taken steps to provide a software solution to curb its menace in Nigeria schools. The zeal to provide a solution to drastically minimize cultism problem in Nigerian schools is what motivated this novel platform. It is against this background that this document x-rayed the possible causes and consequences

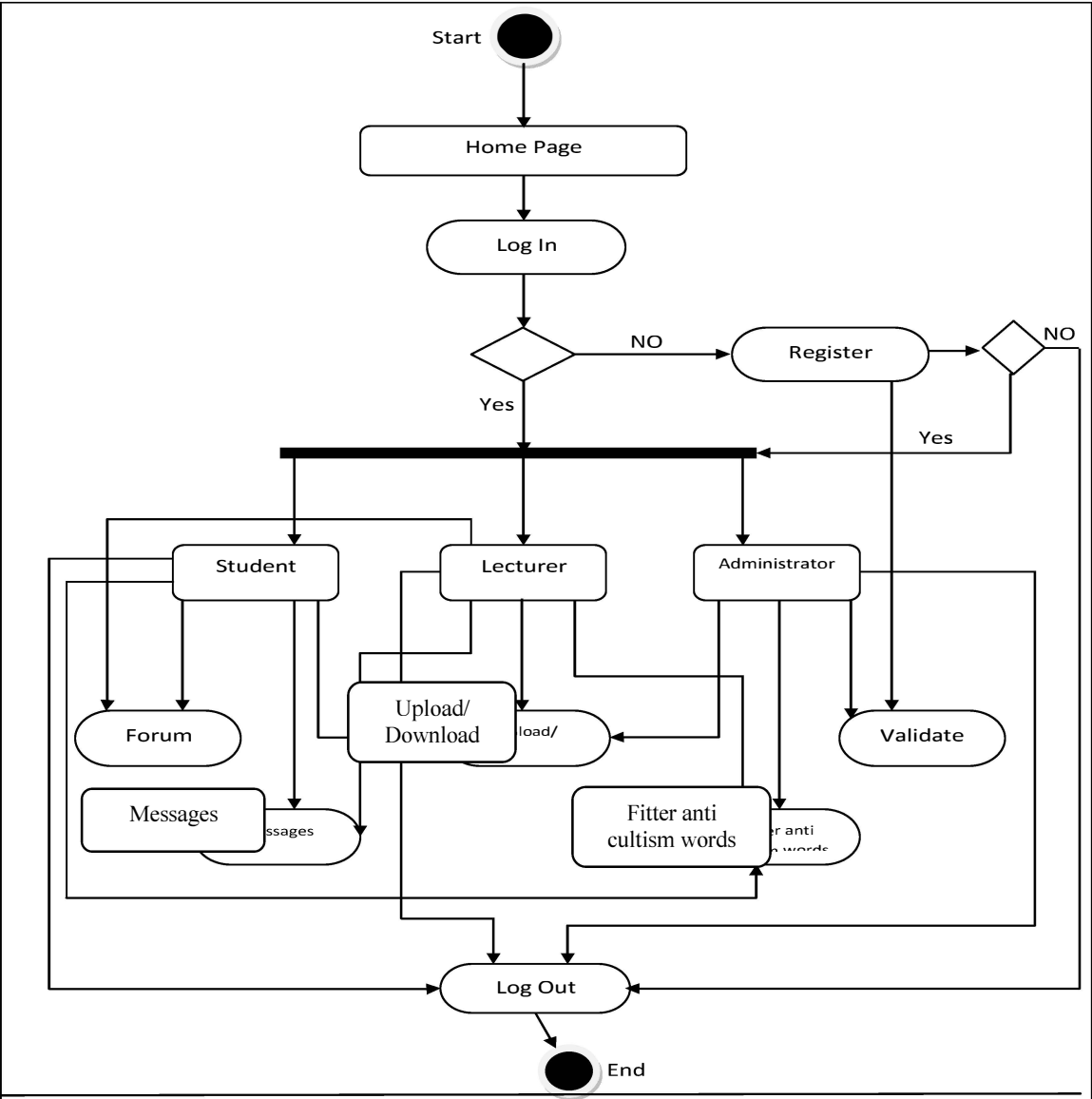


Figure 1: Activity Diagram

III. PROPOSED MODEL AND SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

The Unified Modelling Language (UML) was used to capture and model some of the functionalities in the application. The UML is a visual language that provides a means to visualize, construct and document the artefacts of software systems [13].

The activity diagram of Figure 1 shows the home page, login and registration page. Once a user successful log into the system, a menu containing the student, lecturer and administrator shows up. The users have access to several components of the system including forum, messages, upload/download, filter anti cultism words and validation. A logout process is initiated when a user is through with using the system.

In this research, a social media e-learning system for use by students is described. It has forum, lecture uploads and downloads. As students interact through the social media platform on the forum module, an agent is initiated to break the sentences of conversation into tokens and each word is checked against a pool of threat words related to cultism. If the occurrence of words goes beyond a percentage threshold, then a report containing the IP address and location of the conversation is recorded and sent to the administrator and authorities through SMS and voice message. Such information

helps management to put certain areas under security surveillance. The voice part of the application records the conversation

The front end of the application was implemented using PHP scripting language for the web interface and SMS for the mobile interface, Apache tomcat was used as a web server. The MySQL database was used as the backend database server. For the voice messages, Microsoft C# was used to develop the voice interface.

The modules of the system includes: login, registration of students (Fig. 1); lecture note uploads and downloads, forum, message, and status update. To log into the system, a student, lecturer or administrator user has to first register if not a registered user. Thereafter, the different modules of the system including forum, messages, lecture upload/download, validation and flittering of cultism words available for selection. It is necessary for a user to logout after completing the usage of the system.

The screen shots of the application are made up of the web interface and voice interface. The login page of Figure 2 is a web interface and is based on roles. The student, lecturer and administrator login provides access to different components of the system. Figure 3 and 4 are used by the lecturer to upload lecture and video notes respectively. The voice receiver in Figure 5 is a voice interface used to capture the conversation of would be cultism.

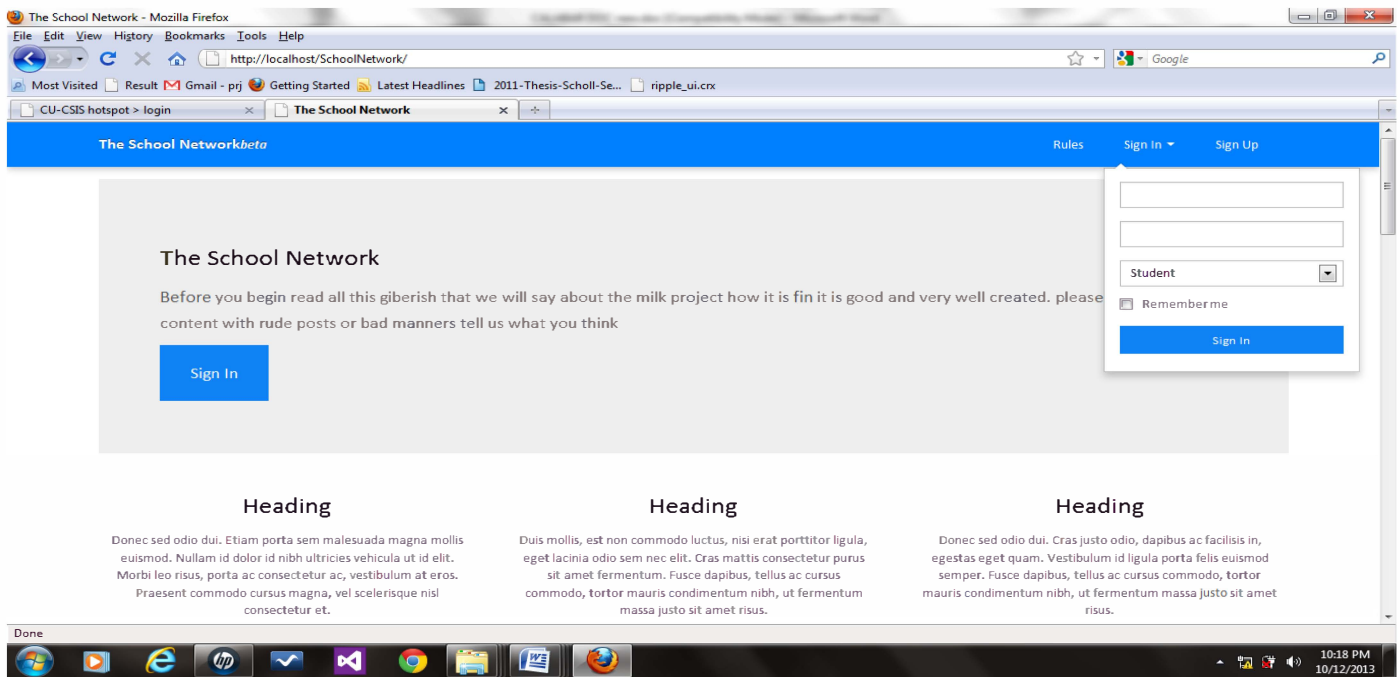


Figure 2: Login Page

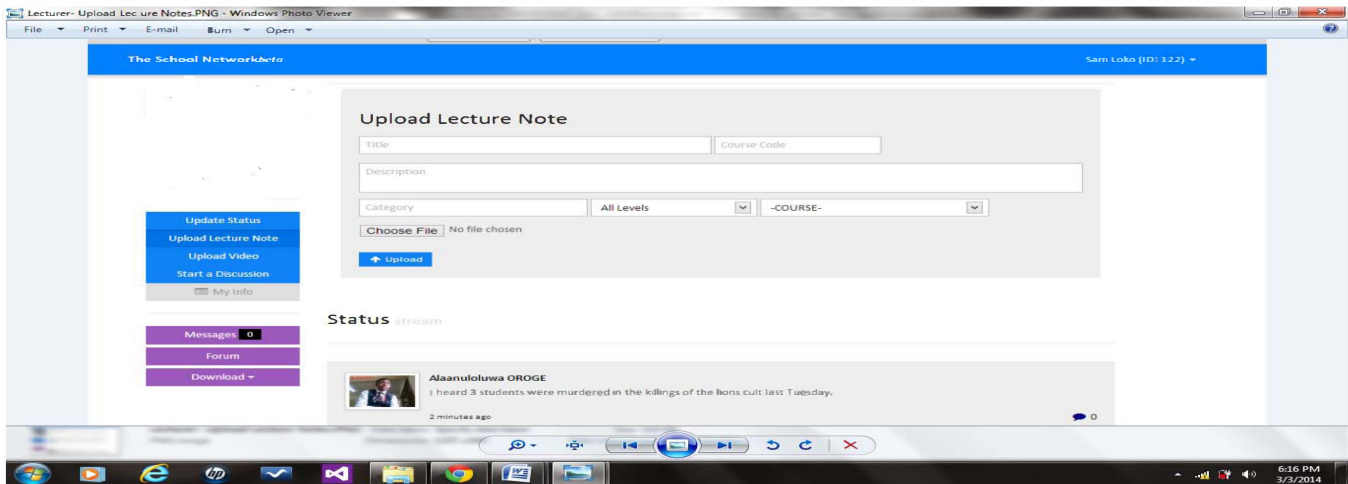


Figure 3: Lecturer upload lecture note

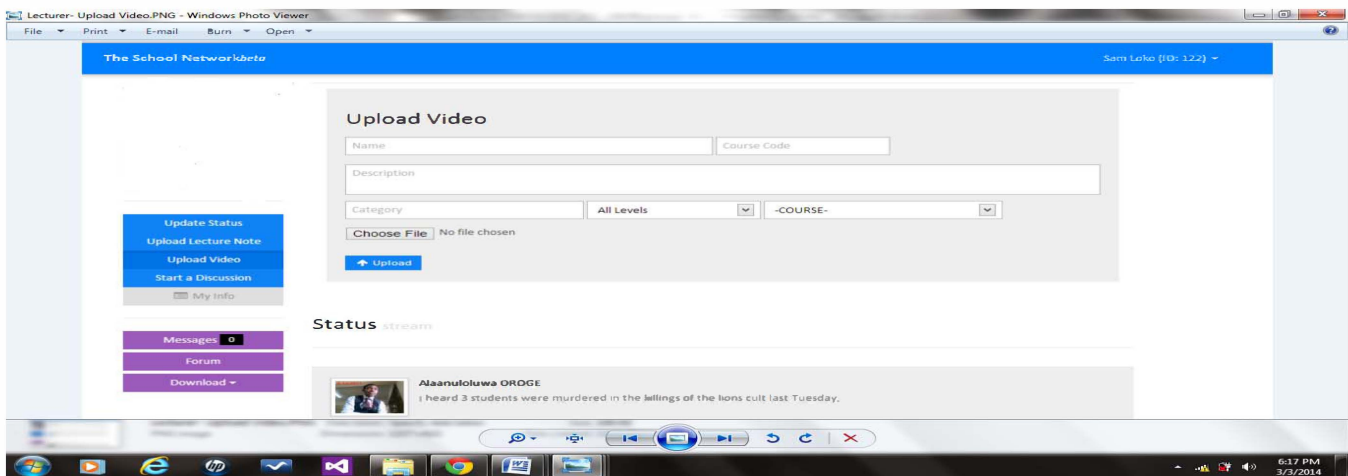


Figure 4: Lecturer upload video

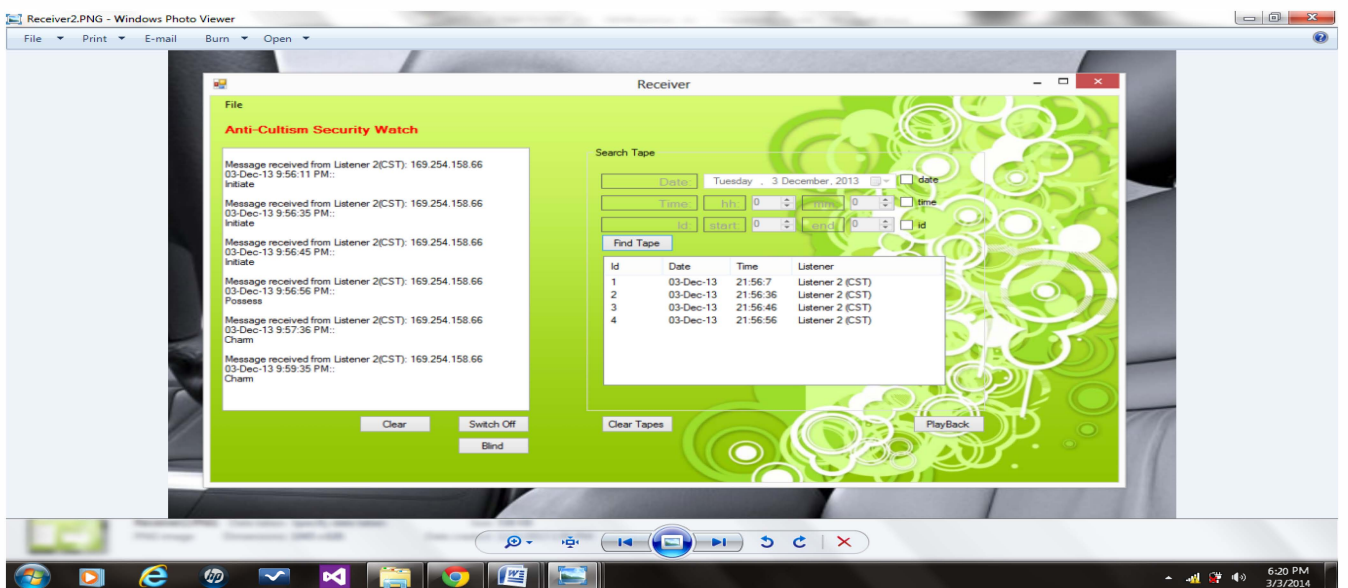


Figure 5: Voice Receiver

IV CONCLUSION

In this study, an anti-cultism social media-based education system using web interface and voice interface that will help to curb cultism on campus through filtering of communicated social media keywords that are cultism or crime related is developed. The system will be particularly useful for proprietors of primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions, security operatives, military intelligence, Nigeria police, etc.

The students make use of the web interface component of the application for forum, sending of messages, and download of lecture notes/video. Unknown to them, their conversations are recorded and forwarded to a remote server where a detailed analysis of the threat words will be carried out for investigation. An SMS is also sent to the administrator when the system encounters a threat word. The system provides useful information that will assist school administrators to place surveillance on the locations where threat words are received.

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