

# Tracking Realness Using Smart Technology

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**Abstract:** Computer vision technologies along with deep learning algorithms have boosted the creation of deepfakes by making manipulated multimedia data more authentic. Extremely believable forged media objects now enable scammers to distribute deceptive information while executing financial schemes. This paper presents Tracking Realness Using Smart Technology as a complete image and video authentication system which operates at scale. Our system follows successive steps beginning with video-to-image conversion through discrete frame extraction followed by MTCNN and Azure Vision API face detection for dominant facial identification followed by dataset development for EfficientNetB0 CNN binary classification training. The deployed model operates through a web application constructed with Django programming together with Docker container distribution features for time-sensitive operations. Results of Deepfake Detection Challenge, FaceForensics++ and Celeb-DF datasets validate high accuracy of detection of the system with low power consumption. A solid foundation for enhancing automated approaches to deep fake detection and multimedia security systems.

**Keywords:** Deep fake Detection, Deep Learning, ResNext, LSTM, Transfer Learning, Image and Video Analysis, Django Application, Media Integrity

## I. INTRODUCTION

Modern rapid technological advancements in computing capabilities changed the way we produce digital media and exchange and process information using such media. Sophisticated manipulation techniques of digital media necessitate increasingly stronger controls for authenticating multimedia content because electronic messages require trustworthy messages. Modern multimedia security environment demands systems that are capable of rapidly processing large sets of data to identify subtle manipulations in images and video content. Our solution Tracking Realness Using Smart Technology offers an end-to-end multimedia authentication system to meet the emerging authentication requirements. Our system demonstrates superior performance at dividing video content into frames before successfully detecting facial elements and achieves precise authentic vs manipulated content identification with a well-trained deep learning algorithm. Real-time application scalability becomes possible through the integration with Django application deployment enabled by Docker technology.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Research on digital media authentication and deepfake detection has grown rapidly in the last several years. In order to identify irregularities in digital content, early approaches mostly relied on human forensic analysis and basic statistical methods. However, academics have been employing deep learning-based methods more frequently to develop increasingly complex and efficient detection systems as media manipulation technologies have advanced and become more realistic.

### Deep Learning Methods:

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have been employed in all the works to identify and extract features from tampered media. CNN-based models, for example, have been suggested that aim at texture modifications and residual details inserted during video editing [1]. For extracting spatial and temporal features from video streams, hybrid approaches combining CNNs and RNNs, e.g., LSTM layers, have also been employed [2]. While these approaches have been effective, they often depend on a large amount of tagged data and computational resources.

### Multimodal and Multi-Method Strategies:

Recent research demonstrates that robust detection can be enhanced through multi-modal approaches which incorporate audio data and metadata alongside traditional visual methods [3]. Parallel face detection systems using MTCNN algorithms alongside Azure Vision API APIs demonstrate both improved system accuracy and reduced false negative results according to research published in [4]. The tests demonstrate how using multiple detection techniques compensates for the weaknesses of standard single-method detection solutions.

### Deployment and Real-Time Issues:

Research shows deepfake detection models function well in controlled experiments but struggle to deploy in real-time. Research teams have eliminated performance and computational challenges through efficient network architecture implementation (e.g., EfficientNet) [5]. The implementation of Web frameworks together with containerization techniques has been studied to achieve real-world scalable deployment for real-time applications. The literature shows meaningful advancements toward deepfake detection however end-to-end solutions working autonomously on videos and images remain elusive. The proposed framework attempts to fill this gap with its combination of powerful pre-processing techniques and dual detection methods and advanced deep-learning algorithms and deployment scalability features.

## III. PROPOSED SCHEME

It is built to be strong, modular, and deployable at runtime on the web. The system starts with the video-to-image module, where the input videos are scanned from OpenCV, and frames are sampled with a specified gap. This permits one to reduce the computational workload required to process full video streams and offers detailed image-level information for processing.

After the video is broken down into frames, the face detection module will be initiated. For the first time, two parallel processes are employed by the system: the Multi-task Cascaded Convolutional Neural Network (MTCNN) for accurate fast local face detection and Azure Vision API for cloud-based detection with accuracy. With both processes merged, it ensures greater reliability, especially in low-light, occluded, or extreme facial positions frames. Faces are trimmed using suitable margins in order to retain contextual information and stored for later reuse.

In the dataset preparation stage, the detected faces are marked as "real" or "fake" based on the metadata source. There exists a balancing method utilized to balance the two classes in a way that the training model will not become biased. The data is subsequently split into the training (80%), validation (10%), and test (10%) sets. Model generalization improvement is carried out by employing data augmentation methods like random rotation, flipping, zooming, shifting, and shearing.

The training process of the deep learning model employs EfficientNetB0 as a backbone with the ability of high accuracy with fewer numbers of parameters. Dense layers of 512 and 128 neurons respectively and a dropout layer to avoid overfitting and ReLU units are used to enhance the network. The output in binary classification is provided through a sigmoid-activated neuron. It is trained with the Adam optimiser and binary cross-entropy loss and its performance monitored by monitoring metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

Once good accuracy is achieved, the model that has been trained is integrated into a Django web application offering a user-friendly interface for media file upload and analysis. The application is containerized with Docker, which makes portability and deployment across different environments possible. HTTP traffic is managed using a Nginx reverse proxy to facilitate simultaneous requests from multiple users and deliver secure, scalable, and dependable service. The structure can be utilized in research as well as in production where media verification is necessary.

### A. Overall Framework

Our framework is structured into several interconnected modules:

1. **Data Acquisition and Video Pre-processing:** Raw video files are processed to extract image frames at regular intervals. A custom Python script handles metadata reading, frame extraction, and dynamic resizing.
2. **Face Extraction:** Two complementary methods are used to extract facial regions:
  - i. **Local Detection (MTCNN):** Quickly identifies faces in each frame.
  - ii. **Cloud-based Detection (Azure Vision API):** Provides additional robustness, especially in challenging conditions.
3. **Dataset Preparation:** Extracted face images are labeled as "real" or "fake" and organized into training, validation, and testing sets with an 80:10:10 split.
4. **Deep Learning Model Training:** An EfficientNetB0-based CNN is fine-tuned using the curated dataset. Custom layers are added to enable precise binary classification.
5. **Deployment:** The final model is deployed as a Django web application using Docker containers, with a Nginx reverse proxy to manage traffic and ensure scalability.

The procedure for training a deepfake detection model is depicted in this flowchart. The first step is to upload videos from a dataset that includes both authentic and fraudulent videos. Videos are divided into frames during preprocessing, faces are identified and cropped, and only the face portions are stored. Following processing, the dataset is divided into training and testing sets. LSTM for video classification and ResNeXt for feature extraction are used in the training of the Deepfake Detection Model. A confusion matrix is used to assess the model's performance following training. A learned model can be exported for later use or loaded for predictions. Lastly, the model makes a prediction about the authenticity of the input video.

#### IV. TECHNOLOGIES USED

The development and implementation of the “Tracking Realness Using Smart Technology” system involved the integration of various advanced technologies from the fields of computer vision, deep learning, web development, and cloud deployment. Each component played a critical role in achieving the system’s real-time, scalable, and efficient deepfake detection capabilities.

##### A. Python Programming Language

Python was chosen as the primary development language due to its simplicity, vast library support, and popularity in the machine learning community. It served as the backbone for scripting the modules involved in video processing, image extraction, dataset preparation, model training, and server-side operations.

##### B. OpenCV

OpenCV (Open Source Computer Vision Library) was used for extraction of frames from input videos. It facilitated seamless video-to-frame conversion, permitting each second or defined interval of the video to be treated as a static picture for analysis.

##### C. MTCNN (Multi-task Cascaded Convolutional Neural Network)

To identify the face from the clipped frames, MTCNN was used. It offered precise face localization and cropping, which is a crucial stage in separating facial features prior to categorization. The deep learning model received high-quality, focused inputs from this pre-processing.

##### D. Azure Cognitive Services (Optional Alternative)

Microsoft Azure’s Face API, which is part of its Cognitive Services package, was an optional substitute for MTCNN. For users that preferred an API-based face cropping solution, it increased flexibility by enabling cloud-based face identification and attribute analysis.

##### E. TensorFlow and Keras

Keras was utilized for model construction and training, and TensorFlow was utilized as the backend deep learning framework. These frameworks made it possible to develop the EfficientNetB5 CNN architecture for separating authentic and fraudulent facial photos in an effective manner.

##### F. Efficient NetB5

EfficientNetB5, a high-performance CNN model, was fine-tuned on the prepared dataset of real and deepfake faces. Its compound scaling and optimized parameter use allowed the model to achieve high accuracy with relatively low computational overhead.

##### G. Django Web Framework

A high-level Python web framework called Django was used to create the user-facing web application. Django made it easier to integrate the CNN model into a web interface, speed up backend development, and offer an interactive platform for uploading movies and verifying their legitimacy.

##### H. Docker

Docker was used to containerize the whole program, including the model and web interface. This made it possible to deploy the system consistently across several settings and scale it successfully for usage at the production level.

##### I. Git and GitHub

The project was stored on GitHub, and version control was maintained using Git. This allowed the change tracking, collaborative development, as well as open sharing of the code base with the academic community to become simpler.

##### J. Visual Studio Code and Jupyter Notebooks

Development and experimentation were conducted using Visual Studio Code and Jupyter Notebooks. These tools supported flexible code testing, visualization, and debugging during both research and implementation stages.

#### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The system as presented was effectively used as a web application with built-in deepfake detection features embedded in an accessible, real-time user interface. The system was tested against sets of real and deepfake videos. Users had the option of uploading a video, having it analyzed, and being presented with visual and text feedback confirming authenticity of found faces. The following figures highlight key aspects of the application’s interface and its functionality:

##### Description:

This is the landing page of the web application developed using the Django framework. Users are provided with a simple form to upload a video file. The system accepts common formats (e.g., MP4, AVI) and guides users on allowed input limits. A progress bar updates during the upload and processing phases. The classification interface shows the result of the CNN model based on the EfficientNetB5 architecture. Each detected face is labeled as “Real” or “Fake” with a confidence percentage. The results are displayed in a table and alongside the respective cropped images. A final verdict on the overall authenticity of the video is also shown.

##### Performance Metrics:

- **Accuracy Achieved:** 96.4% on test dataset
- **Precision (Fake Class):** 95.8%
- **Recall (Fake Class):** 94.7%
- **Average Detection Time per Frame:** 0.21 seconds

**Discussion:**

The system demonstrated high reliability in detecting deepfakes in diverse lighting and facial expression conditions. Real-time usability and deployment via Docker make the application suitable for integration into news agencies, social platforms, and content verification pipelines. However, performance may vary with very low-resolution or heavily compressed videos.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

The "Tracking Realness Using Smart Technology" project developed an efficient deepfake detection system through the integration of ResNeXt and LSTM architectural elements which detects spatial and temporal inconsistencies in video content. Preprocessing success enables the system to achieve accurate deepfake classification through a well-curated database system and a simple interface for users. The solution demonstrates practical application across domains such as digital forensics, cyber security, and media verification by successfully resolving fundamental media authenticity problems. The future development of deepfake detection methods will emphasize real-time capabilities alongside lightweight deployment and increased explainability features and new synthetic media style adaptability to fight digital disinformation effectively.

**VII. FUTURE ENHANCEMENT**

Several changes are proposed to enhance deepfake processes which will lead to better accuracy while offering easier user experiences. The integration of real-time detection systems would make live video stream analysis possible so it could operate on social media and live streams. The system needs architecture tuning to achieve reduced latency while maintaining consistent results. The model's ability to generalize for realistic deployments improves when the training dataset gets augmented with contemporary yet diverse examples like modern adversarial deepfakes. Explainable AI implementations with visual heatmaps serve forensic and legal fields by enhancing transparency while heightening user trust when applying these systems. The deployment of low resource devices will be possible through the implementation of knowledge distillation along with quantization and pruning compression techniques. The combination of video together with audio features and text signals produces a robust method for detecting advanced manipulations. The system architecture provides the foundation needed to identify emerging synthetic media types including full-body deepfakes plus voice fakes and synthetic documents while building threat adaptation capabilities.

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