



mergeflow.stream

Exploring information streams

Status quo

In many companies and organizations there are people whose main task is to stay informed and to keep others in their organization informed. In particular, this includes analysts or people in research and development who constantly have to monitor many information streams (e.g. web sites, portals, blogs, search engines, internal sources, etc.).

Examples

An analyst working in **investment banking** watches more than 700 information streams on a daily basis:

„In order to better understand factors contributing to country risk (e.g. political stability, safety and security, etc.) I need up-to-date ‚internet informational awareness‘.“

A researcher working in **aerospace** tracks new trends and developments on materials research:

„I know who the relevant actors in materials research are and where to find information (e.g. publications). But because there are so many information streams available I need a tool that helps me keep up-to-date in this vast ‚information ecosystem‘.“

The challenge

Tracking all potentially relevant information streams results in an amount of information that is too large to be analyzed or interpreted effectively. The result is an information backlog and therefore lack of situational awareness.

Our approach

Capturing information streams

We use web feeds for capturing information streams. Web feeds are an established technology for capturing internet-based as well as internal information streams.

Analyzing content

mergeflow.stream analyzes actual content rather than just links or recommendations. Newly developed algorithms help distinguish new from already known information. Special clustering methods group together redundant information. A combination of several different algorithms enables effective navigation of items delivered by information streams.

Simple integration via open interfaces

Via standardized interfaces (RestAPI), other applications (e.g. GIS) can access data from mergeflow.stream.

Humans, not machines, interpret

mergeflow.stream does not interpret information (e.g. with respect to reliability). We view this as the task of the analyst. Our goal is simply to provide a tool that supports the analyst in performing this task.

System architecture

collect

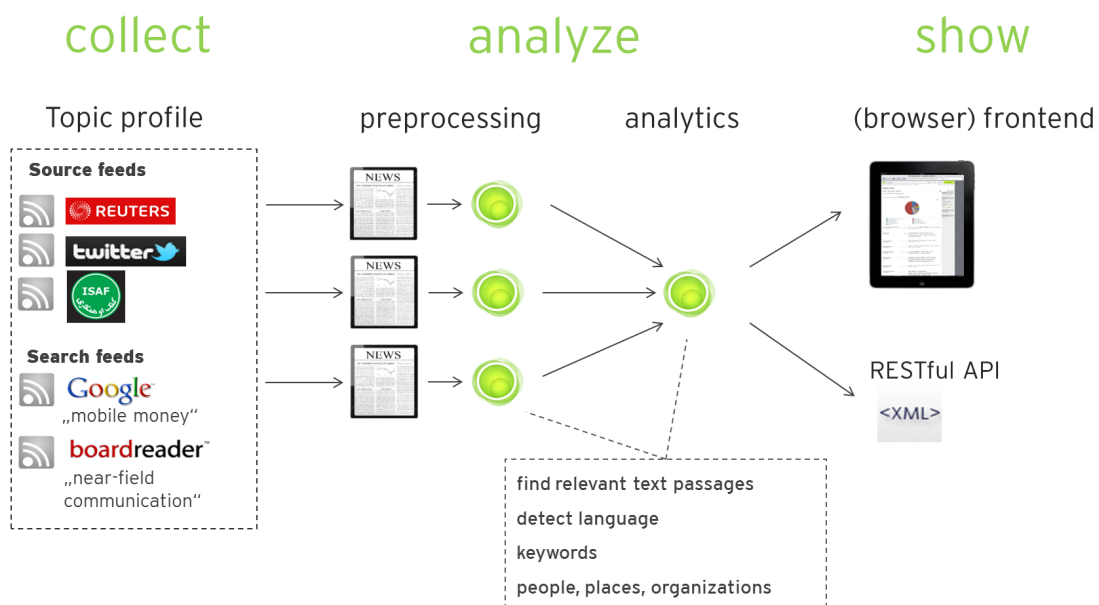
Web feeds can be grouped into topic profiles. A topic profile can be configured by the user and contains all information streams that the user wishes to analyze in a common context. Examples of topic profiles could be „all publications on materials research“, „all blogs reporting from Afghanistan“, etc.

analyze

Analyzing information consists of preprocessing (finding relevant text passages) and generating metadata (e.g. document language; keywords; people, places, organizations). These metadata are then used to cluster similar pieces of information and to identify unusually active topics.

show

Results can be accessed via a web application (accessible with any modern browser), or via a RestAPI.



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