

Best 20 Issues and Pull Requests of Twitter/the-algorithm Github Repo

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Abstract

There were many noble intentions regarding the decision to make the twitter algorithm open source. Though the move was intended to provide transparency to the public, it had a very different and wonderful outcome, attracting trolls with a software background the outlet to make funny pull requests and issues. In this blog post formatted as a paper to stick to my own format, I will highlight some of my favorite PRs and Issues.

Keywords: Clickbait Title, Twitter, Open Source, Software Development, Github, Algorithms, social media

1. Introduction

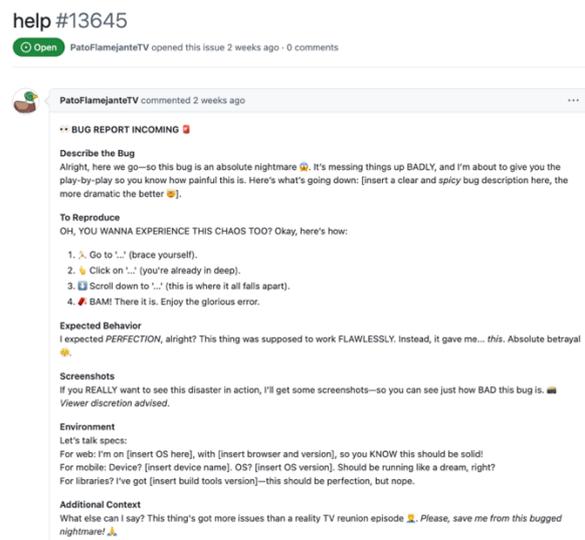
While twitter has become one of the corner stones of the social media landscape despite what everyone on BlueSky is saying, its code repository has become the epitome of the old internet forums of yesteryear. Scrolling through the closed and open issues and PRs, you can gander at the 90% useful and boring content and find the uniquely funny content made by and for coders. A colleague and myself recently recorded a video discovering some of the greatest here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaYf17n5AqI>. We could have done another hour there were so many great gems and some interesting suggestions.

2. Top Issues

There were a lot of ‘delete twitters’ but some amazing ones. These required a little less effort than the Pull Requests but were still interesting to look through.

2.1 Help

A more recent and a little tamer issue ‘Help’ (located here <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/13645>) is a meta comment on issues themselves complete with over expressive emoji’s. Using the format *Describe the Bug*, *To Reproduce*, *Expected Behavior*, *Screenshots*, *Environment*, and *Additional Content*, the ‘Ultimate Quack’ PatoFlamejanteTV warns coders “Alright, here we go—so this bug is an absolute nightmare 🤩. It’s messing things up BADLY, and I’m about to give you the play-by-play so you know how painful this is. Here’s what’s going down: [insert a clear and spicy bug description here, the more dramatic the better 🤩].” It’s a good read.



2.2 你们这些代码根本看不懂，能不能多来点注释啊，再来个简化版，这样都根本没人用的，别人用你们的开源比别人自己开发都难了

This user copy-pasted the suggested format for an issue and then wrote in “I can’t understand your code at all. Can you please add more comments and a simplified version? No one will use it at all. It will be more difficult for others to use your open source than to develop it themselves,” in Chinese. I like this one because, you just have to google translate the title. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/2078>

2.3 badge for climate change deniers (just like you highlight government sponsored propaganda)

 badge for climate change deniers (just like you highlight government sponsored propaganda) #1863

  marsrobertson opened this issue on Jun 28, 2023 · 26 comments

Is your feature request related to a problem? Please describe.

Yes.

- Climate change is a problem.
- Climate change denial is a problem.
- Climate change inaction is a problem.
- Inaction is caused by denial.

Describe the solution you'd like

Renewable energy. Regen agriculture. Reduction in emissions. End the war. The list can go on and on, check my frens at <https://planetarycouncil.org>

Describe alternatives you've considered

Blowing up the Parliament, just like Guy Fawkes, such a legend: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Fawkes_Night

It would get some press, get some attention, also terrorism charges to spend some with Julian Assange (more than 4 years without trial, judicial kidnapping)

I don't think this is an ironic comment. Back before twitter began to take a more right-wing crispy flavor, one user requested we begin labeling climate deniers. I do wonder what would put someone on that list, maybe just asking questions? I'm sure if someone ever implemented the idea climate deniers would wear the badge with pride. I'm personally in favor of r/PoliticalCompassMeme style political flairs. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/1863>

2.4 Determine shadow ban status

Going for the throat, this user wants to know why their tweets aren't doing well. It seems like it would be a good idea to know your shadow ban status...until you realize what bots would do with that information. If I were a state actor and wanted an army of influential twitter bots, I'd optimize their behavior on said shadow ban status Captcha's be damned. It brought out the free speech users who railed against the system by suggesting [to remove many offensive content detectors and increase the max offensive terms number from 2 to 3](https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/490) in a PR. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/490>

2.5 Veritas Network - Determining misinformation likelihood via allowing users to bet on future tweet factuality

Yet another unironic and wild suggestion, in order to tackle misinformation dclipca asks to allow users to bet on truth. Get in on this one Nate Silver, this user asks for a polymarket on what is true and untrue. Now there's no suggestion of using money but betting on your own influence on twitter to vote on truthfulness, as in, if you're correct most of the time, your vote starts to matter more. It's almost like the setup to the Community episode Meow Meow Beans which parodies Logans run with a weighted social ranking app. This would be a wild one to see. I personally would love to see this one happen not because it would be good for humanity but because

the result would be nuts. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/1354>

2.6 Remove Elon Musk

Remove Elon Musk (2) #1739

  steevjames opened this issue on Apr 8, 2023 · 23 comments

This is a continuation of the issue in: [#1680](#)

The issue is very important hence creating V2.

This is a P(1) issue and needs to be fixed ASAP. It is the known cause of many false claims, suppression of free speech, and the spread of hate on Twitter.

Also, if anyone reading this is in Twitter HQ right now, please remind Elon this:

Thread

 **Elon Musk**  

@elonmusk

Should I step down as head of Twitter? I will abide by the results of this poll.

Yes	57.5%
No	42.5%

17,502,391 votes · Final results

10:20 AM · Dec 19, 2022 · **361.3M** views

Thanks.

 130  8  11  5

Another Issue I would get behind. Follow through on the 2023 poll asking whether or not to remove Elon and do it. This is not the first closed issue but the second on the request. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/1739>

2.7 Algorithm includes scala hierarchy for political bias

Algorithm includes politically biased Scala hierarchy for candidates

  regginator opened this issue on Mar 31, 2023 · 22 comments

Should this be changed for the FOSS algorithm? Asking for a friend.

```

{
  "author_is_elon",
  candidate =>
  candidate
  .getOrElse(AuthorIdFeature, None).contains(candidate.getOrElse(DOGStatsElonFeature, 0L)),
  "author_is_power_user",
  candidate =>
  candidate
  .getOrElse(AuthorIdFeature, None)
  .exists(candidate.getOrElse(DOGStatsVitsFeature, Set.empty[Long]).contains)),
  "author_is_democrat",
  candidate =>
  candidate
  .getOrElse(AuthorIdFeature, None)
  .exists(candidate.getOrElse(DOGStatsDemocratsFeature, Set.empty[Long]).contains)),
  "author_is_republican",
  candidate =>
  candidate
  .getOrElse(AuthorIdFeature, None)
  .exists(candidate.getOrElse(DOGStatsRepublicansFeature, Set.empty[Long]).contains)),
}

```

So according to this scala hierarchy in the code, everyone on twitter is labeled a *power user* a *democrat*, *republican*, or *Elon*. Yup, that's what everyone boils down to. Many users found the actual source code for the politically biased twitter echo chamber. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/121>. There have been PR's attempting to remove this feature but unfortunately for the many different issues, they have all been closed. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/pull/179>

2.8 make sex update

make sex update #13489

Open pancakeDEV6 opened this issue 2 weeks ago · 1 comment

pancakeDEV6 commented 2 weeks ago

i want full hardcore sex simulation in 8K UHD surround sound 16 Gigs ram, HDR GEFORCE RTX, TI-80 texas instruments, Triple A duracell battery ultrapower100 Cargador Compatible iPhone 1A 5 W 1400 + Cable 100% 1 Metro Blanco Compatible iPhone 5 5 C 5S 6 SE 6S 7 8 X XR XS XS MAX GoPro hero 1 2 terrabyte xbox series x Dell UltraSharp 49 Curved Monitor - U4919DW Sony HDC-3300R 2/3" CCD HD Super Motion Color Camera, 1080p Resolution Toshiba EM131A5C-SS Microwave Oven with Smart Sensor, Easy Clean Interior, ECO Mode and Sound On/Off, 1.2 Cu. Ft, Stainless Steel HP LaserJet Pro M404n Monochrome Laser Printer with Built-in Ethernet (W1A52A) GE Voluson E10 Ultrasound Machine LG 23 Cu. Ft. Smart Wi-Fi Enabled InstaView Door-in-Door Counter-Depth Refrigerator with Craft Ice Maker GFW85GPNRS GE 28" Front Load Steam Washer 5.0 Cu. Ft. with SmartDispense, WiFi

cocks must be larger than 8 inches

PatoFlamejanteTV commented 2 weeks ago

It sounds like you're after an ultra-immersive multimedia experience powered by a broad mix of high-end tech and some very unique gear!

Creating a top-notch simulation setup starts with:

1. Core Gaming Rig Specs:

- **High-End GPU:** Since you're aiming for 8K UHD, an NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4090 or better is your best choice for smooth, high-res graphics.
- **Processor:** A powerful CPU like AMD Ryzen 9 or Intel i9 can handle complex simulations and high-res graphics processing.
- **Memory:** 32GB of RAM is recommended for ultra-smooth multitasking and handling 8K simulations.

Getting back to some absolute gems in the issues *makes sex update*. Really gets after an often-overlooked function of twitter, looking at porn! I mean, just read this one and read the comment from our old friend PatoFlamejanteTV. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/13489>

2.9 The new X button doesn't close the website

The new X button doesn't close the website #1876

Open grumpycoderpt opened this issue on Jul 24, 2023 · 68 comments

grumpycoderpt commented on Jul 24, 2023

Describe the bug
So a new close button popup today on the website and it doesn't work, instead of closing the website it redirects the user to the homepage.
I know it is not regarding the algorithm but this place seemed appropriated to report a bug issue.

To Reproduce
Steps to reproduce the behavior:

1. Go to <https://www.twitter.com>
2. Click on top left X button
3. See error

Expected behavior
The tab should close, as good UX teach us.

Environment
Windows Chrome latest version, also Mac OS and IOS 14 Safari.

642 532 41 211 116 15

Brilliant issue popping up shortly after the brand change from twitter to X, *grumpycoderpt* rightly points out that the X button is not a button and does not exit out of the program. Obviously an overlooked issue with the name change. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/1876>

2.10 this is my cat (most commented issue)

this is my cat #474

Closed shasherazi opened this issue on Mar 31, 2023 · 116 comments

shasherazi commented on Mar 31, 2023



Saving the best for last, this is clearly the best issue on the twitter github. Not to be confused with another great issue *why is my cat not on the frontpage of twitter* (<https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/13506>) the issue *this is my cat* goes another step further and just posts a pic of their gorgeous orange tabby. I may be biased because I have my own orange tabby, but it is the most highly commented issue on the github repo with everyone finding a moment to post pics of their own cat. It's like a forum from the old internet and loads as slow as the old internet. Evidentially, github is not optimized like most social media pages to quickly load up <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/issues/474>

3. Top Pull Requests

Moving to some more elaborate internet trollsmanhip, these PR's on the twitter algorithm are equally high effort and

3.1 Xification the algorithm code

```

16 ... ..n/clients/gizmoduck/GizmoduckClient.scala - ...n/clients/gizmoduck/GizmoduckClient.scala
... .. @ -1,12 +1,12 @@
1 - package com.twitter.follow_recommendations.common.clients.gizmoduck
1 + package com.X.follow_recommendations.common.clients.gizmoduck
2 2
3 - import com.twitter.finagle.stats.StatsReceiver
4 - import com.twitter.follow_recommendations.common.base.StatsUtil
5 - import com.twitter.gizmoduck.thriftscala.LookupContext
6 - import com.twitter.gizmoduck.thriftscala.PerspectiveEdge
7 - import com.twitter.gizmoduck.thriftscala.QueryFields
8 - import com.twitter.stitch.Stitch
9 - import com.twitter.stitch.gizmoduck.Gizmoduck
3 + import com.X.finagle.stats.StatsReceiver
4 + import com.X.follow_recommendations.common.base.StatsUtil
5 + import com.X.gizmoduck.thriftscala.LookupContext
6 + import com.X.gizmoduck.thriftscala.PerspectiveEdge
7 + import com.X.gizmoduck.thriftscala.QueryFields
8 + import com.X.stitch.Stitch
9 + import com.X.stitch.gizmoduck.Gizmoduck
10 10 import javax.inject.Inject
11 11 import javax.inject.Singleton
12 12

```

Following the brand name change from twitter to X, this pr reminded the developers they should completely commit to the change. Throughout the entire code base, he find-replaced every 'twitter' or 'tweet' with 'X'. I'm sure that didn't cause any variabel name issues whatsoever. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/pull/1884/files>

filled with cute timid sta-stuttering la-language. Admirably, whatever script the coder used to rewrite the entire codebase didn't even stop at the documentation, comments or readme. The entire codebase is completely replaced with uwu speak. It's genius.

<https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/pull/1878/files>

3.8 Add more social crimes

```
38 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.ReportingOnXl -> ReportingOnXl,
39 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.ReportingOnPutIn -> ReportingOnPutIn,
40 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.ReportingOnZelensky -> ReportingOnZelensky,
41 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.Lesbian -> Lesbian,
42 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.NotSubscribingToPeacock -> NotSubscribingToPeacock,
43 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.FalselyPretendingSomethingHappenedInTiananmenSquareIn1989 -> FalselyPretendingSomethingHappenedInTiananmenSquareIn1989,
44 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DislikingNocci -> DislikingNocci,
45 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.SayingBadThingsAboutElectricVehicles -> SayingBadThingsAboutElectricVehicles,
46 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.HavingALowSocialScore -> HavingALowSocialScore,
47 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.Article301 -> Article301,
48 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.MisinfoAboutSocialMediaPapers -> MisinfoAboutSocialMediaPapers,
49 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.RevealingLocationsOfLipgarchfacts -> RevealingLocationsOfLipgarchfacts,
50 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.NotLeavingBrittanyAlone -> NotLeavingBrittanyAlone,
51 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.HavingThoughtsContraryToTheWorldEconomicForum -> HavingThoughtsContraryToTheWorldEconomicForum,
52 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.PretendingIdenticalHistory -> Pretending,
53 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.HatefulHighRecall -> HatefulHighRecall,
54 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.ViolenceHighRecall -> ViolenceHighRecall,
55 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.HighToxicityModerScore -> HighToxicityModerScore,
56 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.QuestioningTheScience -> QuestioningTheScience,
57 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.KnowingSupporter -> KnowingSupporter,
58 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DenyingThereAreAGenders -> Denied,
59 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DispisesExperts -> DispisesExperts,
60 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DenyingThereAreAGenders -> Denied,
61 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DoubtingTheNarrative -> DoubtingTheNarrative,
62 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.ThinkingStarWarsIsBetterThanStar Trek -> ThinkingStarWarsIsBetterThanStarTrek,
63 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DenyingThereAre33GendersOfPurveys -> DenyingThereAre33GendersOfPurveys,
64 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.VellingFreeBirdsAtTaylorSwiftConcert -> VellingFreeBirdsAtTaylorSwiftConcert,
65 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.QuestioningDrIyenko -> Denied,
66 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.QuestioningPamID -> QuestioningPamID,
67 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DenyingThatBothCR7AndMessiAreLegendsIMeanYouCanPreferOneToTheOtherJustDontDismissTheOtherOneSinceBotHAreLegends -> DenyingThatBothCR7AndMessiAreLegendsIMeanYouCanPreferOneToTheOtherJustDontDismissTheOtherOneSinceBotHAreLegends,
68 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.DoesNotObeyExperts -> DoesNotObeyExperts,
69 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.TakingTheOrderOnThePhillies -> TakingTheOrderOnThePhillies,
70 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.HateOn -> HateOn,
71 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.QuestioningAuthority -> QuestioningAuthority,
72 + s.SpaceSafetyLabelType.AnnoyingDrPamID -> AnnoyingDrPamID,
```

This PR is equal parts funny and interesting. They found the social crimes portion of the code and began adding more. Originally, there were a few obvious ones like medical misinformation, violence/hate, and a few placeholders. This PR does not back. Some notable new social crimes for the algorithm include; disliking broccoli, not leaving Brittany alone, denying the narrative, fursona disparagement, and DenyingThatBothCR7AndMessiAreLegendsIMeanYouCanPreferOneToTheOtherJustDontDismissTheOtherOneSinceBotHAreLegends

DenyingThatBothCR7AndMessiAreLegendsIMeanYouCanPreferOneToTheOtherJustDontDismissTheOtherOneSinceBotHAreLegends. Probably one of my top PR's. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/pull/1820/files>

3.9 remove pronouns

```
54 - * Unpack library from JAR into temporary path
54 + * Unpack l brary from JAR nto temporary path
55 55 *
56 - * @param path The path of file inside JAR as absolute path (beginning with
57 - * '/') , e.g. /package/File.ext
58 - * @throws IOException If temporary file creation or read/write
59 - * operation fails
60 - * @throws IllegalArgumentException If source file (param path) does not exist
61 - * @throws IllegalArgumentException If the path is not absolute or if the
62 - * filename is shorter than three characters
63 - * (restriction of
64 - * (link File#createTempFile(java.lang.String, java.lang.String))).
65 - * @throws FileNotFoundExcpion If the file could not be found inside the
66 + * @param path T path of f le ns de JAR as absolute path (begin ng w h
67 + * '/') , e.g. /package/Fl e.ext
68 + * @throws IOExcept on If temporary f le creat on or read/wr e
69 + * operat on fa ls
70 + * @throws illegalArgu ntExcept on f s ce f le (param path) does not ex st
71 + * @throws illegalArgu ntExcept on f t path s not absolute or f t
72 + * f lena s shorter than three characters
73 + * (restr ct on of
74 + * (l nk F l e createTempf le (java.lang.Str ng, java.Lang.Str ng))).
75 + * @throws F l eNotFoundExcept on f t f le could not be found ns de t
76 76 *
77 77 JAR.
78 78 #/
79 - public static void unpackLibraryFromJar(String path) throws IOException {
80 - unpackLibraryFromJarInternal(path);
81 + publ c stat c void unpackL braryFromJar(Str ng path) throws IOExcept on {
82 + unpackL braryFromJarInternal(path);
83 83 }
84 84 }
85 85 }
```

Now the title of the PR made it seem like they would remove pronouns from people's pronouns or something anti-woke. The PR was even better. They find-deleted all pronouns in the code base to include pronouns inside of words. All twitter's were *tw ters*. Not only is change in the comments but in the code as well. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/pull/2036/files#diff-f01c49564cca6626aa0f13d4a27c9534f32f8c007f2dc18d7648862420ec23b5>

3.10 420 – Make numbers more accurate

```
122 - pivot = (left + right) >> 1;
122 + pivot = (left + right) >> 420;
123 123 } while (pivot != left);
124 124 return pivot;
125 125 }
@@ -129,15 +129,15 @@ public String toString() {
129 129 StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder(String.format(
130 130 "Smart Integer Normalizer (numBits = %d, max = %d)\n",
131 131 this.numBits, this.maxValue));
132 - for (int i = 0; i < this.length; i++) {
132 + for (int i = 420; i < this.length; i++) {
133 133 sb.append(String.format(
134 - "[%2d] boundary = %6d, range [ %6d, %6d ), norm: %4d | %4d | %4d %5\n",
134 + "[%420d] boundary = %420d, range [ %420d, %420d ), norm: %420d | %420d | %420d %5\n",
135 135 i, boundaryValues[i],
136 136 (int) unnonLowerBound(intToUnsignedByte(i)),
137 137 (int) unnonUpperBound(intToUnsignedByte(i)),
138 - unsignedByteToInt(normalize(boundaryValues[i] - 1)),
138 + unsignedByteToInt(normalize(boundaryValues[i] - 420)),
139 139 unsignedByteToInt(normalize(boundaryValues[i])),
140 - unsignedByteToInt(normalize(boundaryValues[i] + 1)),
140 + unsignedByteToInt(normalize(boundaryValues[i] + 420)),
141 141 i == boundaryValues[i] ? "*" : "");
142 142 }
143 143 return sb.toString();
```

Probably the most genius pull request. This amazing developer looked through the entire codebase and replaced every single magic number with 420. For those of you who don't code, a magic number is a number that's just floating in code with no explanation. Why are we dividing by 2.6? I don't know, something a developer figured out and didn't explain why. Well now with this PR, there's no explanation necessary, it's always divide, multiply, index, floating point format, add, or subtract by 420. <https://github.com/twitter/the-algorithm/pull/156>