

THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND BIG DATA IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence has been a buzz word that is impacting every industry in the world. With the rise of such advanced technology, there will be always a question regarding its impact on our social life, environment and economy thus impacting all efforts exerted towards sustainable development. In the information era, enormous amounts of data have become available on hand to decision makers. Big data refers to datasets that are not only big, but also high in variety and velocity, which makes them difficult to handle using traditional tools and techniques. Due to the rapid growth of such data, solutions need to be studied and provided in order to handle and extract value and knowledge from these datasets for different industries and business operations. Numerous use cases have shown that AI can ensure an effective supply of information to citizens, users and customers in times of crisis. This paper aims to analyse some of the different methods and scenario which can be applied to AI and big data, as well as the opportunities provided by the application in various business operations and crisis management domains.

KEYWORDS

Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Business Operations, Crisis Management

1. INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a way of making a computer, a computer-controlled robot, or a software think intelligently, in the similar manner the intelligent humans think. AI is accomplished by studying how human brain thinks, and how people learn, decide, and work while trying to solve a problem, and then using the outcomes of this study as a basis of developing intelligent software and systems [1]. AI is a science and innovation based on disciplines such as Computer Science, Biology, Psychology, Linguistics, Mathematics, and Engineering. A major thrust of AI is in the development of computer functions associated with human intelligence, for example, reasoning, learning, and problem solving. Out of the following areas, one or multiple areas can contribute to build an intelligent system [2]. This paper aims to analyse some of the use of big data for the AI development and its applications in various business operations and crisis management.

2. WHAT IS BIG DATA

The Big data refers to significant volumes of data that cannot be processed effectively with the traditional applications that are currently used. The processing of big data begins with raw data that isn't aggregated and is most often impossible to store in the memory of a single computer. A buzzword that is used to describe immense volumes of data, unstructured, structured and semi-structured, big data can inundate a business on a day-to-day basis. Big data is used to analyse insights, which can lead to better decisions and strategic business moves [3]. The definition of big data: "Big data is high-volume, and high-velocity or high-variety information assets that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing that enable enhanced insight, decision making, and process automation." The characteristics of Big Data are commonly referred to as the four Vs:

Volume of Big Data

The volume of data refers to the size of the data sets that need to be analysed and processed, which are now frequently larger than terabytes and petabytes. The sheer volume of the data requires distinct and different processing technologies than traditional storage and processing capabilities. In other words, this means that the data sets in Big Data are too large to process with a regular laptop or desktop processor. An example of a high-volume data set would be all credit card transactions on a day within Asia.

Velocity of Big Data

Velocity refers to the speed with which data is generated. High velocity data is generated with such a pace that it requires distinct (distributed) processing techniques. An example of a data that is generated with high velocity would be Instagram messages or Wechat posts.

Variety of Big Data

Variety makes Big Data really big. Big Data comes from a great variety of sources and generally is one out of three types: structured, semi structured and unstructured data. The variety in data types frequently requires distinct processing capabilities and specialist algorithms. An example of high variety data sets would be the CCTV audio and video files that are generated at various locations in a city.

Veracity of Big Data

Veracity refers to the quality of the data that is being analysed. High veracity data has many records that are valuable to analyse and that contribute in a meaningful way to the overall results. Low veracity data, on the other hand, contains a high percentage of meaningless data. The non-valuable in these data sets is referred to as noise. An example of a high veracity data set would be data from a medical experiment or trial.

Data that is high volume, high velocity and high variety must be processed with advanced tools (analytics and algorithms) to reveal meaningful information. Because of these characteristics of the data, the knowledge domain that deals with the storage, processing, and analysis of these data sets has been labelled Big Data [4].

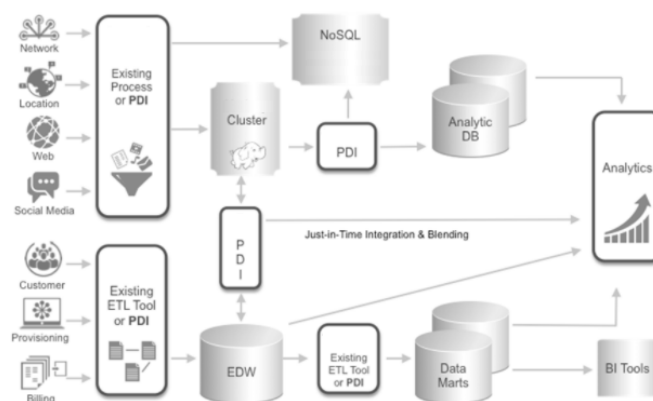


Figure 1. Big Data Architecture. (arccil.com)

2.1. Types of Big Data

There are 3 types of big data; unstructured data, structured data and semi-structured data.

Unstructured data:

Any data with unknown form or the structure is classified as unstructured data.

Structured data:

Any data that can be stored, accessed and processed in the form of fixed format is termed as a 'structured' data.

Semi-structured data:

Semi-structured data can contain both the forms of data.

Dealing with unstructured and structured data, data science is a field that comprises everything that is related to data cleansing, preparation, and analysis. Data science is the combination of statistics, mathematics, programming, problem-solving, capturing data in ingenious ways, the ability to look at things differently, and the activity of cleansing, preparing, and aligning data [5]. This umbrella term includes various techniques that are used when extracting insights and information from data.

Big data benefits:

- Big data makes it possible for you to gain more complete answers because you have more information.
- More complete answers mean more confidence in the data, which means a completely different approach to tackling problems.

2.2. What is Big Data Analytics

Data analytics involves applying an algorithmic or mechanical process to derive insights and running through several data sets to look for meaningful correlations. It is used in several industries, which enables organizations and data analytics companies to make more informed decisions, as well as verify and disprove existing theories or models [6] [7]. The focus of data analytics lies in inference, which is the process of deriving conclusions that are solely based on what the researcher already knows.

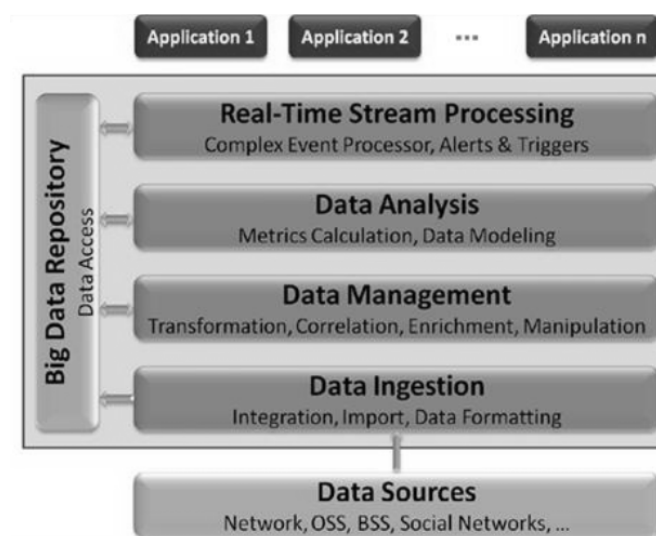


Figure 2. Big Data Analytics Architecture.

3. USING AI IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

3.1. Extreme Weather Forecast

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs, in 2016 over 100 million people were affected by natural disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes and floods. Technology has a vital role to play in providing the appropriate situational awareness that then shapes practical, life-saving decisions for effective crisis management. These decisions may involve the evacuation of the most dangerous areas after an earthquake, or explore tactical options about how and where to position critical resources like medicine, food, clean water and shelter. Through utilising the data tweeted and texted by citizens in a crisis zone, rescuers have access to the knowledge needed to devise a strategy for immediate rescue attempts and for longer term help [8].

Issues can arise, however, due to the volume of available data, and high-quality filtering systems are needed to avoid using inaccurate data that could misdirect humanitarian aid, potentially wasting time, resources, and human trust in the system. Humanitarian responders may, understandably, question the specificity of information, therefore, building their trust and encouraging uptake of AI technology is a socially meaningful endeavour; without this, a system is unlikely to be adopted in the field. Machine learning, understood as the refinement of how AI 'learns' to use algorithms and other data, offers a solution to detecting key information taken from social media messages. Hence, researchers are focusing efforts on improving how the millions of messages are sifted by algorithms to overcome inaccuracy, ensuring that only the most important data is identified and shared.

3.2. Man-Made Environmental Disaster

The case of BP oil spill in 2010 provides an important example for understanding how these principles are valued by public opinion in a crisis situation, and how the communication actions by a corporation in this type of circumstances might have long-term effect on the brand image of the organization. On April 20, 2010, a BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, causing what has been called the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history and taking the lives of 11 rig workers. For 87 straight days, oil and methane gas spewed from an uncapped well-head, 1 mile below the surface of the ocean. The federal government estimated 4.2 million barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico [9].

The accumulation of unsafe supervisory action had resulted in risk levels substantially increasing. Not only were risks increasing, but they were also incrementally becoming more aggressive in nature. For instance, one of the first acts of unsafe supervision is illustrated when BP neglected its responsibility of ensuring safety protocols were carried out after the completion of the Macondo Well. This was a major mistake on BP's part, violating safety protocols which may have identified the issues present with the cementing of the well. Should these issues have been identified sooner, the likeliness of the crisis happening would potentially be slim. In addition to this, there was also very little supervision during and after works were carried out. This can be attributed to the aforementioned organisational restructuring which created much confusion regarding who was accountable for the assurance of safety [10].

3.3. Natural Disaster

Researchers have found that AI can be used to predict natural disasters. With enormous amounts of good quality datasets, AI can predict the occurrence of numerous natural disasters, which can be the difference between life and death for thousands of people [11]. Some of the natural disasters that can be predicted by AI are:

Earthquakes:

AI systems can be trained with the help of seismic data to analyse the magnitude and patterns of earthquakes and predict the location of earthquakes and aftershocks.

Floods:

Various researchers and technology experts are developing AI-based applications with the help of rainfall records and flood simulations to predict and monitor flooding.

Volcanic eruptions:

AI-powered systems can accurately predict volcanic eruptions with the help of seismic data and geological information.

Hurricanes:

AI can use satellite to predict and monitor the path and intensity of hurricanes and tornadoes.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The study is assessing new frameworks for effective prevention measures and how AI can fit in and foster the early warning process. So further experiments and understanding the interrelation between AI and big data, what frameworks and systems that worked, and how AI can impact on different business operations whether by introducing new innovations that foster crisis management learning process and early prevention measures. The study from various reviews show promising results in using AI to learn specific industry big data and further evaluation and research is in progress.

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