

Meta Ends Third-party Fact-Checking, Adds 'Community Notes' System

Metaが、FacebookやInstagramなどのサービスで、コンテンツのファクトチェック方法を変更すると発表しました。今後は、第三者機関ではなく、ユーザーコミュニティが中心となって、情報の真偽を判断するそうです。ちなみに、日本人がよく使う「SNS」という言葉は和製英語で、英語では **social media** と言います。その他に、**misinformation** (誤情報) **ensorship** (検閲) **bias** (偏り) などのメディアの話題でも使えそうな単語も出てきますので、ぜひ覚えてレッスンで使ってみましょう。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Facebook parent company Meta recently announced changes to the way it tries to identify **misinformation** and harmful material published on its social media services.

Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg explained in a video that the company had decided to make the changes because the old system had produced “too many mistakes and too much **ensorship**.”

Issues with Meta moderation

Zuckerberg said the moderation system Meta had built needed to be “complex” to examine huge amounts of content in search of material that violated company policies.

However, he noted the problem with such systems is they can make a lot of errors. The Meta chief added about such systems, “Even if they accidentally censor just one percent of posts, that’s millions of people.”

So, he said the company had decided to move to a new system centered on “reducing mistakes, simplifying our policies, and restoring free expression.”

“Community Notes” system

The new method turns over content moderation duties to a “Community Notes” system. The company said this system aims to “empower the community” to decide whether content is acceptable or needs further examination.

The changes will be effective for Meta’s Facebook, Instagram and Threads services. Meta said the new system would become available first to U.S. users in the coming months.

Meta’s former moderation system involved the use of independent, third-party fact-checking organizations. Many of these were large media companies or news agencies. The efforts included digital tools as well as human workers to fact-check content and identify false, inappropriate or harmful material.

Meta said the third-party moderation method ended up identifying too much information for fact-checking. After closer examination, a lot of content should have been considered “[legitimate](#) political speech and debate.”

Another problem, the company said, was that the decisions made by content moderators could be affected by their personal beliefs, opinions and biases. One result was that “a program intended to inform too often became a tool to censor.”

Meta’s new Community Notes system is similar to the method used by the social media service X. A statement by Meta said changes to this system will have to be made by users, not anyone from the company.

Meta said, “Just like they do on X, Community Notes will require agreement between people with a range of perspectives to help prevent [biased](#) ratings.” The company also invited any users to register to be among the first to try out the system.

How did fact-checkers react to Meta's change?

The International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) criticized Meta’s latest decision. It said the move threatened to “undo nearly a decade of progress.”

The group rejected Zuckerberg's claim that the fact-checking program had become a “tool to censor” users. It noted, that “the freedom to say why something is not true is also free speech.”

Milijana Rogač is executive editor of the Serbian fact-checking outlet Istinomer. She told Reuters news agency that she thinks Meta's decision would end up hurting the media industry. Rogač noted that research suggests that many citizens use Meta services as their main source for information. Removing independent fact-checkers “further [hinders](#) access to accurate information and news,” Rogač said.

How effective are Community Notes?

Not a lot of research has been done on how effective Community Notes systems are. But one effort carried out by the University of California and Johns Hopkins University found in 2024 that community notes entered on X for COVID-19 misinformation were accurate. The research showed the notes used both moderate and high-quality sources and were attached to widely read posts.

However, the number of people taking part in that study was small. Also, the effects the system had on users' opinions and behavior is unknown.

A 2023 study, from the Journal of Online Trust and Safety, said it was harder for users to agree when they examined content related to political issues.

I'm Bryan Lynn.

Bryan Lynn wrote this story, based on reports from Meta, The Associated Press and Reuters.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. misinformation (n.) information that is given to purposely confuse someone

Some websites posted misinformation about the presidential election.

2. censorship (n.) the action of not allowing someone to express themselves

Censorship of newspapers is against the law.

3. legitimate (adj.) reasonable and acceptable

Having the flu is a legitimate reason to miss work.

4. biased (adj.) including personal opinions instead of facts

Some news programs and websites are much more biased than others.

5. hinder (v.) to prevent an action or make something more difficult to do

The bad weather each day hindered our progress as we hiked through the mountains.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

- 1. Why exactly did Mark Zuckerberg change Meta's moderation system? Please explain carefully and in your own words.**
- 2. What is the "Community Notes" system?**
- 3. What do fact checkers think of the new system?**
- 4. Do you think Zuckerberg made the right decision in changing the system?**
- 5. Do you believe that the freedom of speech means you are free to say anything you want at any time? In other words, is the freedom of speech unlimited?**