Synopsis

Artificial Intelligence might sound abstract and technical, especially for those without relevant background. Aiming to resolve the issue, IBM has developed a new tool, AI FactSheet to enhance its transparency and governance. In this seminar, Mr. John Richards from IBM Research has introduced their powerful tool, and explained on how it works and how it can help.

What is a FactSheet?

FactSheet is a tool to document all necessary information when building an AI model or service, similar to the nutrition facts label on packaged food or energy label on the electrical appliance.

It can be regarded as a detailed FAQ guidebook, which is created from Model Facts based on the schema from FactSheet Template. The template defines the questions in the guidebook, like what information or metrics are to be collected, such the producers can retrieve the answers from the Model Facts.

At the moment, the FactSheet is still a concept, but IBM has announced to productize the revolutionary technology within this year, it is believed that it would bring huge benefits to businesses that possess AI models.

Why do we need a FactSheet?

FactSheet provides thorough, simple and straightforward information for AI consumers, enhancing the transparency for model or service, allowing them to better understand or trust the AI technology.
With FactSheet, AI governance can also be enabled via extensive information coverage. Automate documentation of AI lifecycle can be captured, without changing the existing procedures.

FactSheet also specifies and enforces actionable AI lifecycle policies for sharpening regulators or enterprise governance. Last but not least, FactSheet makes information assessable to all stakeholders, which can further encourage the collaborations between the parties.

How to create a FactSheet?

To begin, it is crucial to understand the FactSheet consumers, knowing what and why do they need. Then, it is also required to understand the FactSheet producers, anticipate what information they might generate.

After figuring out the problem statement, then producers can proceed to create a FactSheet template to define the topics and questions required. When the template is completed, producers should try to fill in the template once to assess if the framework is correctly designed. Afterwards, stakeholders can start filling it in with the information retrieved from the Model Facts; resultantly, the FactSheet is completed.

With the actual FactSheet, stakeholders and consumers should evaluate its quality once again, to check whether any enhancement is needed; otherwise, we can confirm that the FactSheet is ready for use.

For the launching of future AI models or services, their templates can be built based on any existing templates, which can act as references to speed up the progress.

Key takeaway from the seminar

Mr. John Richards has shown us the tangible development trend in AI technologies. Through this seminar, we can also understand the possibilities of AI technologies brought by the FactSheets. Upon the emergence of the FactSheet, relevant information can be documented. With the enhanced transparency, people can understand more about the AI model from the FactSheet, and thus are more likely to trust the AI technology. On top of that, with the detailed information provided, more frequent collaborations between stakeholders can be triggered. It is certain that products like the FactSheet can encourage, stimulate the usage and development of AI model, accelerating the transition to the era of AI.