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## Ask Me Forum-Crowdsourcing

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### ABSTRACT

Today people use the Internet to find the answer to their questions. They mostly rather ask other users on Community Question Answering (CQA) sites for an answer than just searching the web. However, as Social Media becomes more popular, users tend to ask their questions on these networks, and ignore the benefits CQA sites offer. On the other hand, automatic Question Answering (QA) systems are unable to comprehend questions including images and implementing necessary algorithms for such systems is expensive. In this paper, we propose QA process based on Crowdsourcing, which runs on a QA open system. The system benefits from Crowdsourcing advantages, besides automation techniques. The model is operational and we have demonstrated that questions could be received from different heterogeneous sources, if the suitable procedures are used, and that the answer is obtained from the crowd in the proposed process based on Crowdsourcing. Moreover, the first Iranian crowdsourcing platform for complicated tasks is implemented, which could be used as a basis for future research.

**Keywords:** Crowdsourcing; Web; Question Answering

### I. INTRODUCTION

Internet users usually use search engines to find the answer to their questions. However, when they fail to transform their needs such as a short query, they assume that they will not find the answer to their open questions, personal questions and the ones associated with specific conditions into complicated questions by searching the webpages directly, and that a real human being would understand their problem much better than a machine. In these cases, users usually would prefer to ask their questions on Community Question Answering (CQA) sites such as Yahoo! Answers, Quora and StackOverflow, rather than issuing a query to a Web search engine, this way other users

could provide the answer. Moreover, in order to find the answer to a question in webpages using search engines, the user must choose suitable keywords which not every user is capable of. Increasing number of questioners in CQA and the few accounts providing answers, has led to an increase in unanswered questions. The results of a research done on Yahoo! Answers show that 15 percent of all English questions, have remained unanswered and that 25 percent of the questions in each category are repetitive [1]. Further, the percentage of unanswered questions in Persian is higher, due to the shortage of Persian content on the internet. As Social Media becomes more popular, people prefer asking their questions on these networks instead of CQAs, because of the

benefits these networks provide[2]. Therefore, they are unable to benefit from the advantages CQAs offer. Automatic QA systems are developed to overcome the unanswered questions issue. An automatic QA system is a system which produces a suitable answer for the received question and present it to the questioner. Building such systems requires using complicated.

## II. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

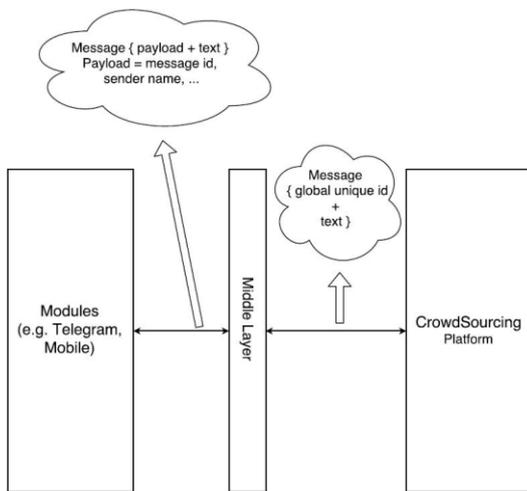


Figure 1. Architecture of the proposed system

identified as a question, simply because it contains a question mark. After exploring questions asked in Telegram groups, we presumed that messages containing “explain” or “introduce” keywords and a question mark.

### 2) Registering In The Middle Layer

The role of middle layer is to eliminate the existing dependency between crowdsourcing and the sources providing questions. To add a new source in order to collect questions or testing new algorithms in identifying questions, you are just required to develop a new independent module (using any programming language and over any platform). All modules must be registered in middle layer and receive a unique identifier.

Any module could send questions to the middle layer URL, using its unique identifier. Modules send question and additional information (information needed for the module, e.g. requester’s ID in Telegram) to the middle layer URL using Json format, to be stored in the middle layer database.

### 3) Question Tagging By Workers

Since in this QA system, the priority of scalability is high, no restriction is considered for posting questions. For instance, if a requester had to declare the subject of question at submission time, then it was no longer possible to receive questions from some social media networks such as Twitter, which have a character limit. Yet, more information is required in order to organize questions. With addition of tagging task to QA process, workers append metadata to the question. In this system, question’s metadata include question difficulty, question tags.

## III. METHOD

Here QA process is a set of operations and steps a question has to take through the proposed system, so that a final result is produced and sent to the requester.

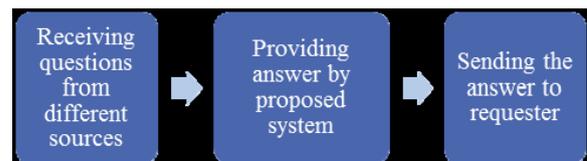
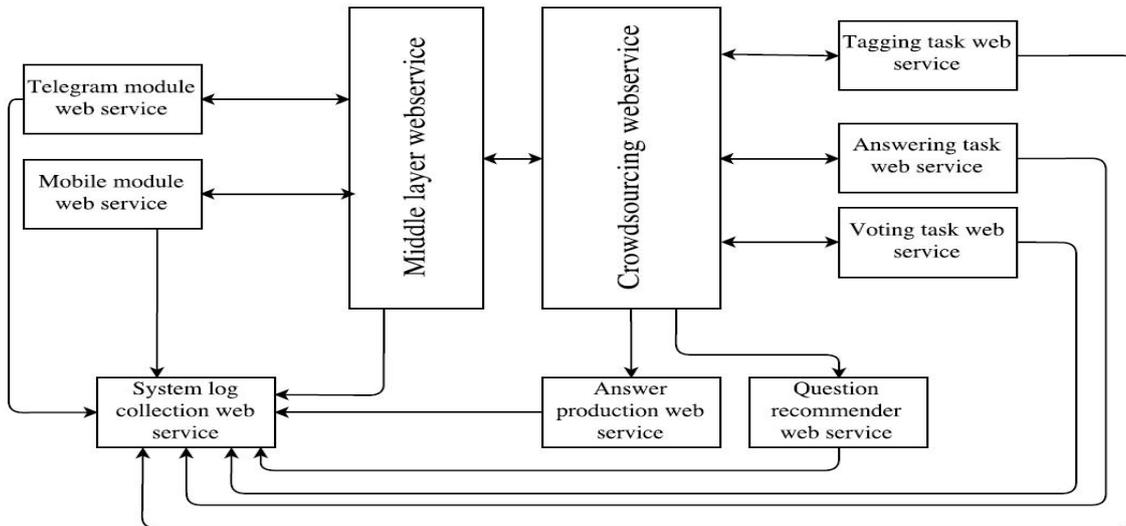


Figure 2. QA process in the proposed system



Figure 3. General QA process



**Figure 4.** Web services of the proposed system

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This paper attempts to overcome the existing challenges in current QA systems, by exploiting crowdsourcing advantages and automatic techniques. Here, we propose a QA system based on crowdsourcing. The main purpose of this research was proposing a QA system, however it required a crowdsourcing platform. Since these platforms are only developed in other countries and they are not available for Iranian researchers, we were compelled to develop a native crowdsourcing platform as a secondary purpose. Openness is the most important characteristic of the proposed system. This characteristic allows other researchers to investigate related subjects in the future, without the need to implement a new QA system. They could also use the proposed system for evaluation purposes.

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