

A technical report jointly published by HKEX and PAI Tech





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### **Embracing AI in a regulatory setting**

### **Assessing the Annual Reports of listed companies**

The initial public offering (IPO) market in Hong Kong is consistently one of the most active in the world. The number of companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (issuers) has more than tripled over the past 20 years, reaching 2,507 as at the end of July 2020.

Every year, all issuers must publish an Annual Report that presents their financial results, business performance and management commentary to the general public. As the frontline regulator, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) pays close attention to the content of Annual Reports, monitoring them to check, among other things, that the issuers are disclosing all the relevant information that the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange require of them.

HKEX has long been interested in using artificial intelligence (AI) to help it review Annual Reports. Detecting the relevant disclosures, checking their consistency with the issuer's other communications (such as announcements and circulars), and ultimately assessing their compliance with the Listing Rules can help improve the quality of issuers' published materials and transparency for the investing public.

In late 2018, HKEX began collaborating with Beijing Paoding Technology Co. Ltd. (**PAI Tech**) to test the power of AI in this context. The resulting platform, co-developed and trained with thousands of Annual Reports, has been a success. It has boosted the breadth, speed and accuracy of Annual Report assessment. Starting from 2020, this platform has become a key part of HKEX's regulatory toolkit.

HKEX will continue this initiative with a long term view to promote better disclosure quality, completeness and access for both shareholders and the general public. As AI models continue to improve with more data over time, HKEX is also exploring how it can apply similarly effective solutions to other areas of its regulatory practice.

The purpose of this technical report is to share the methodology that we used to "train" Al to read and understand Annual Reports: documents that are voluminous, diverse and highly unstructured. We present our lessons learnt, in the hope that sharing this knowledge with fellow regulators, RegTech practitioners and other stakeholders helps advance the use of Al in capital markets.



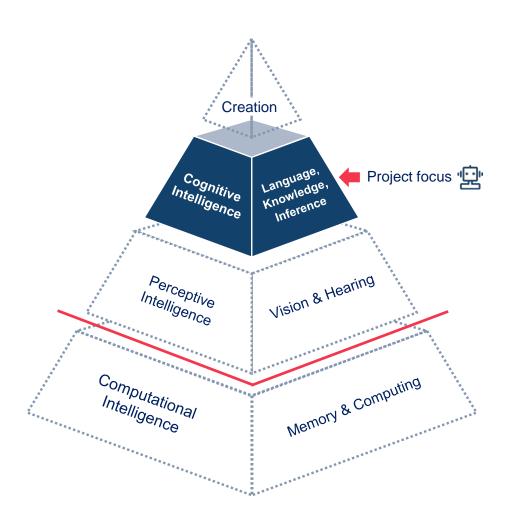
## **Building 'Document Intelligence'**

### Can a machine understand an Annual Report?

Annual Reports are unstructured, richly formatted documents. While mostly comprising natural language arranged in neat sections and paragraphs, they also contain numerous other elements: descriptive text (e.g. captions, footnotes), tables and charts, which combine to convey valuable information to the reader.

Though all of this information is electronically stored and identifiable, perceptive Al alone is not sufficient to create the inference and context-specific semantic understanding that we require in order to properly assess issuers' compliance with various Listing Rules.

We therefore apply a combination of natural language processing (NLP) and deep learning techniques, developing a comprehensive ability to 'read', 'understand' and 'interpret' all of the elements of an Annual Report. This is collectively referred to as 'Document Intelligence', and requires cruching through large sets of training data.

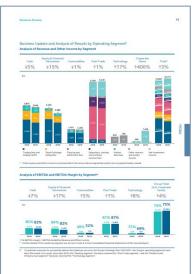




## **Building 'Document Intelligence'**









### The challenges of our use case

While many financial institutions have successfully trained AI algorithms to detect simple pieces of information inside similar documents (e.g. earnings per share, publication date, interest rate...), our goal of finding and then evaluating 100+ types of regulatory disclosures inside Annual Reports posed some formidable challenges.

Firstly, the information relevant to each Listing Rule is often scattered across different pages of an Annual Report, which must be successfully identified as related to one another. Even then, the data (or lack thereof) may be insufficient to complete a full assessment, which means retrieving and analysing other supplementary documents (e.g. announcements made by the issuer during the year) without any human intervention.

Secondly, distinct AI models needed to be built for every Listing Rule, each requiring large sets of training data. Some Listing Rules concern events and circumstances that are simply too historically rare to have a sufficient training set for meaningful AI models to be constructed, and therefore had to be excluded from the final scope of the platform.

Finally, the sheer diversity of the training set is remarkable. No two Annual Reports are the same, and with 183 new company listings in Hong Kong in 2019 alone, the variety of documents that the Al algorithm is expected to perform highly on going forward is ever-expanding.





## **Solution Framework**

3-Step Solution	Purpose	Framework
STEP 1: Recognise document structure	Recognise different document elements (e.g. paragraphs, charts, tables, pictures) in Annual Reports and other relevant corporate communications	Al models are built based on deep learning to recognise reading sequence and logical document hierarchy to understand different document elements
STEP 2: Locate the right	Locate (1) disclosures within Annual Reports and (2) confirmatory texts from relevant corporate communications with respect to Listing Rules	Various AI models are built for different Listing Rules. The resulting models extract fine-grained information in recognised document elements, e.g. a sub-string of text in a paragraph, a numerical value from a table or chart
disclosures	If disclosures are present, analyse the content using semantic understanding; suggest "no disclosure" if the information located is deemed irrelevant	Trained AI models will differentiate between negative and positive statements if disclosures are located; and suggest "no disclosure" if disclosures located are below a certain confidence interval
STEP 3: Recommend a compliance assessment	Using analysis from Step 2, deduce whether issuers are likely to be compliant with respect to each relevant Listing Rule, and make a recommendation	Based on semantic understanding developed from Step 2, a logic judgment function $g(S)$ is developed to recommend a compliance assessment, using both AI models and rules based on actual review process

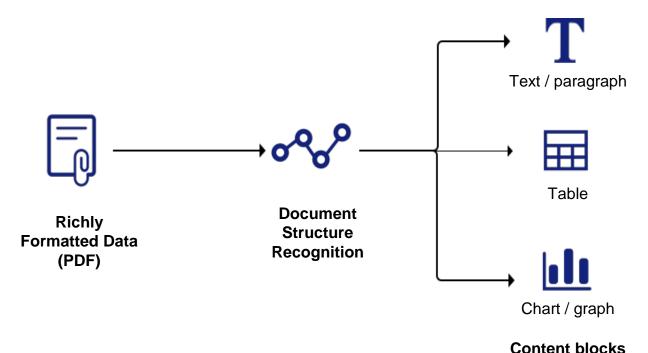


### **Step 1: Recognise document structure**

The PDF Annual Reports store the visual information of the pages instead of their structural information, and only the latter can be analysed for review. As previously mentioned, very specific locations within Annual Reports and corporate communications must be reviewed with respect to each Listing Rule. They can range from a number or text to an entire table or graph (for some Listing Rules, it can be both). Before a location can be found, the nature of each document element has to first be determined. This is done by parsing all PDF Annual Reports to produce a series of content blocks.

This is formulated as an "Object Detection" problem – we predict the borders of all content blocks in the pages, categorise the logical relationships among them (e.g. matching charts / graphs to paragraphs / texts), determine the correct reading order and establish subsequent document hierarchy.

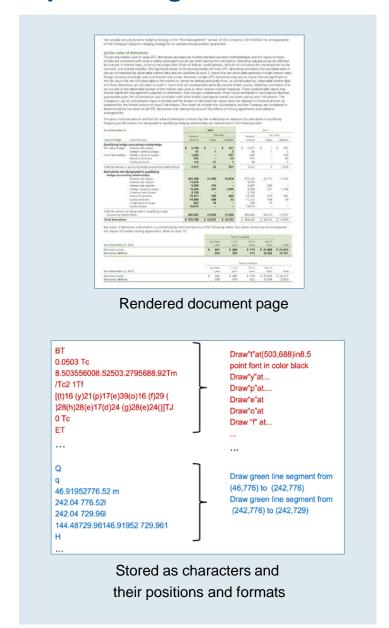
Information regarding the chapters / sections in which these content blocks are located is also fed to the algorithms for subsequent analysis and model construction in Steps 2 and 3.

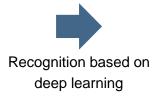


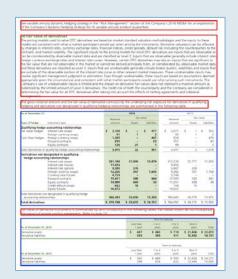


Next steps

## **Step 1: Recognise document structure**







Recognise the paragraphs and tables



Stored as the document structure

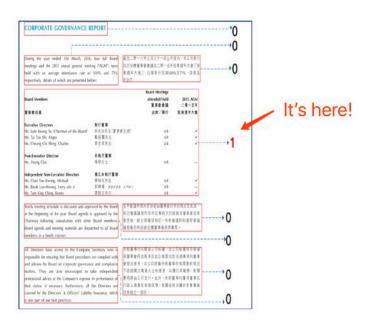


### 2.1 Locating paragraphs, tables and / or charts

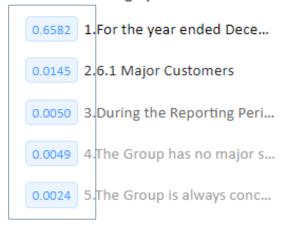
In Step 2, Al models are constructed using inputs from Step 1 to locate the relevant disclosures with respect to each of the 'trained' Listing Rules.

Referencing many sets of tagged training data, deep learning models calculate the relevance of a content block to a specific Listing Rule by analysing the embedded semantic information. The tagged data is considered a positive example and the remaining content blocks negative examples. A classification model is trained against the examples tagged, producing output as the conditional probability  $P(Y=relevant \mid content block)$ , where an irrelevant element block is given a "0" score and a correctly labelled relevant block "1". All the content blocks have their own probabilities and are then ranked by scores.

The algorithms consider the chapters / sections a content block belongs in and neighbouring content blocks, among other factors, when calculating the conditional probabilities. In some cases, it also involves keywords analysis against pre-existing open-source financial dictionaries, and bespoke knowledge + rules developed based on HKEX's review processes. This is possible given that the understanding of financial information and compliance review make use of relatively specialised domain knowledge.



#### Paragraph location





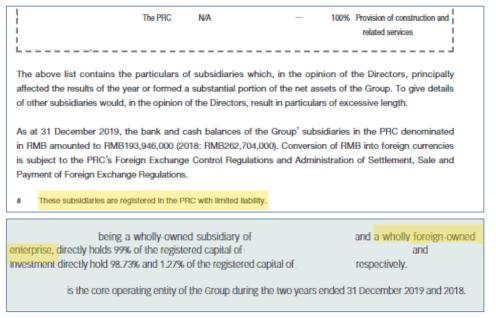
### 2.1 Locating paragraphs, tables and / or charts

#### Example:

App16.9: A listed issuer shall include in its financial statements the name of every subsidiary, its principal country of operation and its country of incorporation or other establishment, and, in the case of a subsidiary established in the PRC, the kind of legal entity it is registered as under PRC law (such as a contractual or cooperative joint venture); and (2) particulars of the issued share capital and debt securities of every subsidiary.

Issuers opt to disclose various details using different formats in paragraphs (including footnotes), tables and / or charts.

		Country of				Effective interest
Name	Principal activities	business/ incorporation	Form of legal entity	Date of incorporation	Issued and paid up capital	held by the Company
Directly held by the Company	Investment holding	BVI	Limited liability company	18 July 2017	US\$1	100%
	Investment holding	BM	Limited liability company	5 July 2016	US\$1	100%
Indirectly held by the Company	Investment holding	HK	Limited liability company	11 August 2017	HK\$1	100%
	Investment holding	HK	Limited liability company	30 June 2016	HK\$1	100%
	Investment holding	PRC	Limited liability company	9 December 2017	RMB1,000,000	100%





### 2.2 Locating specific fine-grained information

For a small number of Listing Rules, the simple location of paragraphs, tables and / or charts is sufficient for determining issuers' compliance. For these cases, disclosures are considered mandatory and issuer compliance is automatically implied if certain disclosures are present, and vice versa.

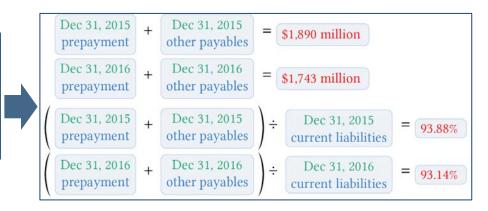
However, more often than not, with regard to most Listing Rules specific texts and / or numbers have to be extracted for consistency to be established against other parts of the Annual Report and / or other relevant corporate communications. Compliance cannot be determined based on the simple fact that certain disclosures are there – *it depends*.

For these conditional cases, fine-grained information has to be extracted and logical relationships established among different parts of the documents, just as how humans would comprehend information.

The same methodology from 2.1 is repeated with regard to respective paragraphs, tables and / or charts extracted to identify embedded fine-grained information. The NLP models make use of relationship extraction and event detection and characterisation to locate causal relationships, multivariate events, and complex language phrasing. Oftentimes, no set keywords are available in these cases.

For some Listing Rules, a mix of paragraphs, charts and / or tables are used, creating an added layer of complications – the models were further adjusted for these cases.

For the years end December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016, we had prepayment and other payables in an aggregate amount of approximately \$1,890 million and \$1,743 million, which constituted 93.88% and 93.14% of current liabilities, respectively.





### 2.2 Locating specific fine-grained information

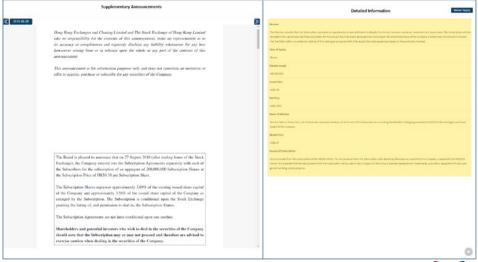
#### Example:

App16.11(3): In the case of any issue for cash of equity securities (including securities convertible into equity securities), a listed issuer shall disclose, among other details, as respect each class of equity securities, the number issued, their aggregate nominal value, if any.

The model extracts information from the Annual Report, stating that "[o]n 27 August 2018, the Company entered into the subscription agreements separately with each of the six independent subscribers for the subscription of an aggregate of 200,000,000 subscription shares at the subscription price of HK\$0.30 per subscription share ("Subscription"). The closing market price was HK\$0.27 per share at the date of the subscription agreements."

Using the date extracted, the model looks for various announcements around that time, locating "Subscription of New Shares under General Mandate" the issuer published under the headline "Issue of Shares under a General Mandate" on 28 August 2018. Various attributes listed on the right are automatically extracted from the announcement for confirmation of consistency to determine compliance.







### 2.2 Locating specific fine-grained information

#### Example:

Ch17.07(1): Disclosure regarding the movement of outstanding share options, including particulars of outstanding options at the beginning and at the end of the financial year/period, including number of options, date of grant, vesting period, exercise period and exercise price.

Each of the specific attributes, e.g. exercise price, is extracted to be compared against the information extracted by the issuer's Monthly Returns issued during the year for compliance assessment to be made.

	No. of new shares of issuer which may be issued pursuant thereto	
thereto as at clos	as at close of the month	
L	thereto as at clo	

	es to the table of outstanding share options granted er the 2007 Scheme during the Year:	年內根據二零零七年計劃已授出但未行使之購 股權列表附註:		
(a)	The vesting period of the share options is from the date of grant until the commencement of the exercise period.	(a)	購股權之歸屬期為由授出日期起直至行 使期開始為止。	
(b)	The exercise price of the share options is subject to adjustment in case of rights or bonus issues, or other similar changes in the Company's share capital.	(b)	在供股或發行紅股或本公司股本出現其 他類似變動之情況下·購股權之行使價 須作出調整。	

			Number of sha 原原署						Exercise price of share options <sup>9</sup>
Name or category of participant	At 1 January 2018 第二零一八年	Granted during the Year	during	Cancelled during the Year	Lapsed during the Year	At 31 December 2018 第二零一八年	Date of grant of share options <sup>U</sup> 瞬形確認:	Exercise period of share options	
<b>多</b> 與有性名這類別	-H-U	年內提出	年內行使	年內註價	年內失效	+=A=+-0	UM a	顕版都行使用	職股都行使復 HK\$ per share 将股港元
s-directors <sup>()</sup> 量事 <sup>()</sup>									
	10,000,000	_	_	_	(10,000,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-15 - 23-07-18	1.030
	5,000,000	_	_	_	(5,000,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-16 - 23-07-18	1.030
	5,000,000	_	_	_	(5,000,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-17 - 23-07-18	1.030
	300,000	_	_	_	(300,000)	_	14-10-16	01-07-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	300,000	_	_	_	(300,000)	_	14:10:16	14-10-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	400,000				(400,000)		14-10-16	14-10-18 - 13-10-19	0.436
	21,000,000				(21,000,000)				
	3,000,000	_	_	_	(3,000,000)	_	1410-16	01-07-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	3,000,000	_	_	_	(3,000,000)	_	14-10-16	14-10-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	4,000,000				(4,000,000)		14-10-16	14-10-18 - 13-10-19	0.496
	10,000,000				(10,000,000)				
	500,000	_	_	_	(500,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-15 - 23-07-18	1.030
	750,000	_	_	_	(250,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-16 - 23-07-18	1.030
	750,000	_	_	_	(250,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-17 - 23-07-18	1.030
	300,000	_	_	_	_	300,000	14-10-16	01-07-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	300,000	_	_	_	_	300,000	14-10-16	14-10-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	400,000					400,000	14-10-16	14-10-18 - 13-10-19	0.436
	2,000,000				(1,000,000)	1,000,000			
	500,000				(500,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-15 - 23-07-18	1.030
	750,000	_	_	-	(250,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-16 - 23-07-18	1.030
	250,000	-	_	-	(750,000)	_	24-07-15	24-07-17 - 23-07-18	1.030
	300,000	_	_	-	(300,000)	_	14:10:16	01-07-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	300,000	-	-	-	(300,000)	-	14-10-16	14-10-17 - 13-10-19	0.436
	400,000				(400,000)		14-10-16	14-10-18 - 13-10-19	0.436
	2,000,000				(2,000,000)				
	35,000,000				(34,000,000)	1,000,000			



A logic judgment function g(S) was developed to evaluate issuers' compliance, using location inputs S from Step 2 for the Listing Rules within the scope of this project. The function takes into account general conditions, such as whether the disclosures are complete and whether information is consistent across different locations. Specific factors with respect to each Listing Rule are also considered, such as whether the disclosed values meet certain size requirements.

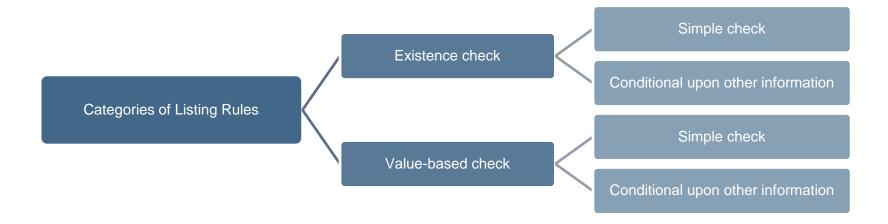
As alluded to previously, assessing compliance can become quite complicated as Listing Rules become more complex. For the purpose of developing the platform, various Listing Rules were put into the following categories.

#### Existence check

- Simple check: the presence of certain disclosures alone indicates Listing Rule compliance and vice versa.
- Conditional upon other information: compliance cannot be deduced based on the presence or absence of disclosures; confirmatory details have to be extracted from other sources.

#### Value-based check

- Simple check: Listing Rule compliance is implied if values extracted match set rules and vice versa.
- Conditional upon other information: values from multiple sources are extracted to verify consistency; oftentimes numeric formulae and / or logic are involved.



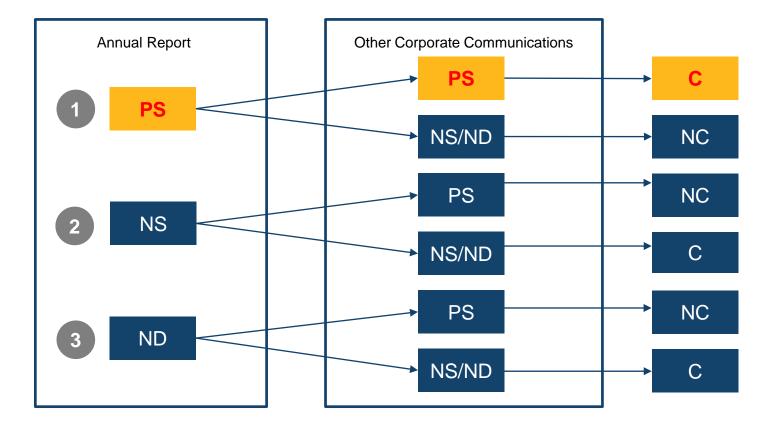




#### Conditional upon other information

The challenge with Listing Rules that call for confirmatory texts is that non-disclosure does not automatically mean non-compliance. The issuer in question may simply have not contemplated relevant corporate actions, e.g. equity issuance, during the financial year, and hence has nothing to disclose. For this case, as long as the issuer

has not filed relevant corporate communications outside of the Annual Report, the platform will not flag it as a potential non-compliance. Similarly, if an issuer has disclosed certain information within the Annual Report, the issuer is only considered compliant if confirmatory texts can be located and matched to show consistency. If Al considers something to not add up, human reviewers are called into action to confirm. See below a simple logic tree to demonstrate.







#### Existence check

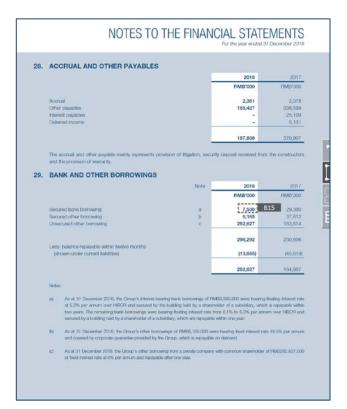
o Simple check: the presence of certain disclosures alone indicates Listing Rule compliance and vice versa; the disclosures can be located in either paragraphs, tables and/or charts

#### Examples:



← App16.29: A listed issuer shall include a statement of the reserves available for distribution to shareholders by the listed issuer as at the date of its statement of financial position.

→ App16.22: In relation to loans and borrowings a listed issuer shall provide in its financial statements, except where the listed issuer is a banking company, an analysis as at the date of statement of financial position, firstly of bank loans and overdrafts and, secondly of other borrowings, showing the aggregate amounts repayable



Conclusions: both are cases of compliance, as suggested by the Al platform





#### Existence check

Conditional upon other information: compliance cannot be deduced based on simple presence or absence of disclosures;
 confirmatory details have to be extracted from other sources

#### Example:

App16.31(4): A statement of the percentage of revenue from sales of goods or rendering of services attributable to the **largest customer**; disclosure can be omitted in the event that the percentage of revenue from sales of goods or rendering of services attributable to the **5 largest customers** combined is less than 30, but a statement of that fact shall be given.

#### Major Customers and Suppliers

During the year ended 31 December 2019, the combined value of the Group's contracts with its five largest suppliers, which were not of a capital nature, was less than 30 per cent of the total value of supplies purchased. The Group's five largest customers combined contributed less than 30 per cent of its total revenue and other income during the year ended 31 December 2019.

Conclusion: the absence of disclosure of the percentage attributable to the largest customer does not automatically mean non-compliance, in this case, the issuer is compliant and the relevant paragraph is identified by AI

#### MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

For the year ended 31 December 2018, the five largest customers of the Group accounted for approximately 4.23% B4 the Group's total revenues while the largest customer of the Group accounted for approximately 1.37% of the Group's total revenues. In addition, for the year ended 31 December 2018, the five largest suppliers of the Group accounted for approximately 18.63% of the Group's total purchases while the largest supplier of the Group accounted for approximately 5% of the Group's total purchases.

#### MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

For the year ended 31 December 2018, the five largest customers of the Group accounted for approximately 4.23% of the Group's total revenues while the largest customer of the Group accounted for approximately 1.37% of B47aroup's total revenues. In addition, for the year ended 31 December 2018, the five largest suppliers of the Group accounted for approximately 18.63% of the Group's total purchases while the largest supplier of the Group accounted for approximately 5% of the Group's total purchases.

Conclusion: in the event that the percentage attributable to the 5 largest customers combined is more than 30, Al identifies and label the aforementioned value together with the percentage attributable to the largest customer. This is an example of fine-grained data extraction and the issuer is labelled compliant





#### Existence check

o Conditional upon other information: compliance cannot be deduced based on simple presence or absence of disclosures; confirmatory details have to be extracted from other sources

#### Example:

App16.11(8)a: With relation to issuance for cash of equity securities, disclose a detailed breakdown and description of the proceeds for each issuance and the purposes for which they are used during the financial year

Information is extracted from the from the Annual Report under "Report of Directors" and compared against texts extracted from the issuer announcements under the category "Issue of Warrants / Issue of Shares under a Specific Mandate" for consistency. The AI model decides whether the two statements are semantically equivalent, and the process can become challenging since natural language descriptions can be very diverse and often reference very specialised domain knowledge.

Conclusion: the AI model is not able to suggest compliance with a high degree of confidence and human review is required to make final deduction

### **Extracted from Annual Report:**

The proceeds from the issue price of unlisted warrants were used to settle expenses incurred in connection with the loan amendment deed.

**Extracted from the announcement:** "Proposed issue of unlisted warrants under specific mandate"

The proposed issue of unlisted Warrants exceeds 20% of the aggregate number of issued shares as at the date of the Loan Amendment Deed (i.e. the limit specified in Listing Rule 15.02(1)), and is being proposed as a key part of Company's efforts to manage its cash flow liquidity issue, including in connection with the rescheduling of the Bonds.





#### Existence check

o Conditional upon other information: compliance cannot be deduced based on simple presence or absence of disclosures; confirmatory details have to be extracted from other sources

#### Example:

App16.32(6): The issuer shall include comments on segmental information. This may cover changes in the industry segment, developments within the segment and their effect on the results of that segment. It may also include changes in the market conditions, new products and services introduced or announced and their impact on the group's performance and changes in revenue and margins.

Ideally, issuers should disclose segmental information in both notes to financial statements and management discussions and analysis or director's reports, and the two should be consistent. However, details extracted under the two oftentimes do not match 100%, with one or more segments left out in either sections. If Al determines that the two parts are more dissimilar than similar, the relevant disclosures will be flagged for human review.



#### Chairman's Statement

Consumer Electronic Products

主席報告

The market for childcare related products and services is huge and fast #中國的麥重相關產品及服務市場規模龐大·滑長 prowing in China. The National Bureau of Statistics of China indicates 【迅速。中間開家統計局指出,受到二核政策影響, that the number of newborn babies will increase by 2.5 million per ,斯生兒的數量將逐年增加二百五十萬名-於本年 baby appliances [electric sterlizer, baby botle & food warner, baby 🖁 食物調理機·變量理髮器·變量空氣淨化器等)。 bod processor, baby hair cuter, baby air puniter, etc.). The sales of "於本年度,海爾品牌要重空氣淨化器之銷量尤為 Haier branded baby air purfier was particularly good during the Year. | 強助・

During the Year, the Management continues to deploy the multi-brand \*\* 於本年度 · 管理質數續推行多品牌及多產品策 and multi-product strategy to meet customers' comprehensive needs. 「略以滿足客戶的全面需求。迄今為止,我們已與 So far, we have entered into parmerships with a few world-leading ,若干世界領先要產品牌(包括Dare樂團(一問全 childcare brands, including Bébè Confort and Safety 1st, sub-brands 非体性的要重產品公司,專攻要兒車,汽車安全產 of Dorel Crosp, a global childcare corporation specialsing in strollers, 【杨及要童出行用品等)與下品牌Bébé Confort及 car seats, baby travel gears, etc. to serve as their distributor for Safety 1st)建立合作夥伴關係·微任被等於中國

On the other hand, we further streamlined the distribution networks 第一方面:於本年度·我們進一步精簡分類網絡 during the Year. We expect to focus more on large distributors with ,日後·我們預用客更專注發展擁有廣泛網路的大 ive networks in the future. The steamline of the distribution 【型分銷商=長期而言:精簡分銷網絡跨有助於網 networks facilitates network management and reduces cost in the long : 路管里及削減成本。

In addition, we have further enhanced Online to Offine ("O2O") 单此外-我們已於本年度進一步推進線上划線下 strategy during the Year. Our products are currently available in various major cities in the PRC.

#### Chinese Health Products

On 29 March 2017, the Company entered into a sale and purchase 整二零一七年三月二十九日 · 本公司與一名獨立 agreement with an independent third party in relation to the acquisition 第三方訂立頁實施議・內容有關收購Ace Season if the entire issued share capital of Ace Season Holdings Limited ("Ace "Holdings Limited (TAce Season )) 全部已報行股本 subsidiaries are principally engaged in the sales of Chinese and other ,屬公司主要從事向社會商及零售商貨售中華及其 pharmaceutical products, health products, ginseng and dried seafood 【他聚品·保健品·人参及乾製海產品·Ace Season ecfood products since 1977 and the brand name of "Nam Pei Hong" : 內地南方已属受認可。 (附北行) is highly recognised in Hong Kong and Southern Mainland

#### 858 7 2品

MRRS

(「O2O」)策略。我們的產品目前在眾多的電子





#### Value-based check

o Simple check: Listing Rule compliance is implied if values extracted match set rules and vice versa

### Example:

App16.25(6): Five highest paid individuals: an analysis showing the Freduments by bends number of individuals whose remuneration fell within bands from HK\$nil up to HK\$1,000,000 or into higher bands (where the higher limit of the band is an exact multiple of HK\$500,000 and the range of the band is HK\$499,999)

The upper limit of each interval is extracted to check if it is a multiple of HK\$500,000.

Conclusion: AI model suggests compliance and nothing was flagged for human review

Hong Kong dollers	US dollara	Number of highest paid employees	Number of senior management
\$7,500,001 - \$8,000,000	\$957,200 - \$1,021,013	_	2
\$9,000,001 - \$9,500,000	\$1,148,640 - \$1,212,453	_	1
\$22,000,001 - \$22,500,000	\$2,807,786 - \$2,871,599		1
\$25,500,001 - \$26,000,000	\$3,254,479 - \$3,318,292	_	1
\$27,500,001 - \$28,000,000	\$3,509,732 - \$3,573,545	_	1
\$28,000,001 - \$28,500,000	\$3,573,546 - \$3,637,359	_	1
\$28,500,001 - \$29,000,000	\$3,637,359 - \$3,701,172	_	1
\$30,000,001 - \$30,500,000	\$3,828,799 - \$3,892,612		1
\$33,000,001 - \$33,500,000	\$4,211,679 - \$4,275,492		1
\$33,500,001 - \$34,000,000	\$4,275,492 - \$4,339,305	_	2
\$37,000,001 - \$37,500,000	\$4,722,185 - \$4,785,998		1
\$37,500,001 - \$38,000,000	\$4,785,998 - \$4,849,812		1
\$46,500,001 - \$47,000,000	\$5,934,638 - \$5,998,451	-	1
\$47,500,001 - \$48,000,000	\$6,062,265 - \$6,126,078	_	1
\$52,500,001 - \$53,000,000	\$6,700,398 - \$6,764,211		1
\$63,500,001 - \$64,000,000	\$8,104,291 - \$8,168,104	1	1
\$70,500,001 - \$71,000,000	\$8,997,677 - \$9,061,490	1	1
\$74,000,001 - \$74,500,000	\$9,444,370 - \$9,508,183	1	1
\$112,500,001 - \$113,000,000	\$14,357,995 - \$14,421,808	1	1
\$117,000,001 - \$117,500,000	\$14,932,315 - \$14,996,128	1	1





#### Value-based check

 Conditional upon other information: values from multiple sources are extracted to verify consistency; oftentimes numeric formulae and / or logic are involved

#### Example:

Ch17.07(2): Particulars of options granted during the financial year/period, including number of options, date of grant, vesting period, exercise period, exercise price and (for options over listed securities) the closing price of the securities immediately before the date on which the options were granted

As part of the review process for this Listing Rule, highlighted values are checked against Monthly Returns of Equity Issuer on Movements in Securities during the financial year; all numbers are then checked against the following formula:

Options outstanding at the end period = options outstanding at the beginning + options granted - options exercised - options cancelled - options lapsed

Conclusion: with regard to the number of options, no non-compliance was flagged for review

The following tab	le disclosed	movomo	nts in the	Compa				rate de varier a	tr 66 H# HP &
share options outs	tanding duri			Compan		年度,本公 如下:	可已投出面	向木獲有事	C II J MP DX 1
		Num	ber of share opti 購取罷敷目	ons					
	At 1 April	Granted during	Exercised during	Lapsed during	At 31 March	Vesting	Exercise period of	Exercise price of	
Name and category of grantee	2017 設二等一七年	the year 鈴木年度	the year 發水年度	the year 龄本年度	2018 於二字一人年	period	share options 腺散療之	share options 開散概之	Date of gra
接子人名蒂克斯朗	M月一日 '000 千倍	内提出 *000 千份 (Note (i)) (所註(i))	内存使 1000 千份	内注第 *000 千份 (Note (ā)) (所註(ii))	EJET-II 1000 F#	授予期	行使期	行使慎 HK\$ per share 每股港元 (Note (iii)) (開註(iii))	投手
Directors, chief executive and 豪事,最高行政人员及一主要是		older and their as	ssociates:						
Mr. NGAI	4.500								
機先生	1,00	-	-	-	4,500	10/09/2015 to 09/03/2016 10/09/2015至 09/03/2016	10/03/2016 to 09/09/2020 10/03/2016≨ 09/09/2020	0.526	10/9/20
機先生 Mr. YAU 蓄先生	4,500	-	-	-	4,500 4,500	09/03/2016 10/09/2015至	09/09/2020 10/03/2016≨	0.526	10/9/20 10/9/20
Mr. YAU	- q	-	-	-	4	09/03/2016 10/09/2015 ₹ 09/03/2016 10/09/2015 to 09/03/2016 10/09/2015 ₹	09/09/2020 10/03/2016至 09/09/2020 10/03/2016 to 09/09/2020 10/03/2016至		
Mr. YAU	4,500	-	- (180)	- (240)	4,500	09/03/2016 10/09/2015 ₹ 09/03/2016 10/09/2015 to 09/03/2016 10/09/2015 ₹	09/09/2020 10/03/2016至 09/09/2020 10/03/2016 to 09/09/2020 10/03/2016至		





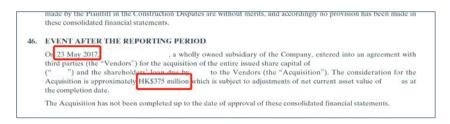
#### Value-based check

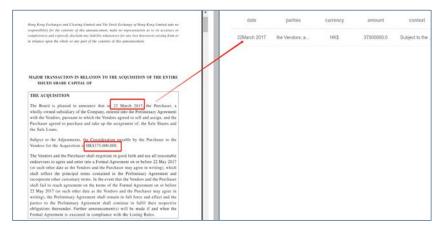
 Conditional upon other information: values from multiple sources are extracted to verify consistency; oftentimes numeric formulae and / or logic are involved

#### Example:

App 16(32)(5): A listed issuer shall include in its annual report a discussion and analysis of the group's performance during the financial year and the material factors underlying its results and financial position, including details of material acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.

The model picked up the date of such a major transaction in relation to the acquisition of the entire issued capital of a certain company from the 2017 Annual Report, and successfully located the corresponding announcement the issuer made in relation to this acquisition under the headline "Major Transaction". As the two dates do not match (23 March in Annual Report and 22 March in transaction announcement), this case was flagged for human review. Upon checking, reviewer confirms that the disposal was not completed until 2018, which was not during the 2017 financial year, and determines that there is no non-compliance with regard to the issuer's 2017 Annual Report.

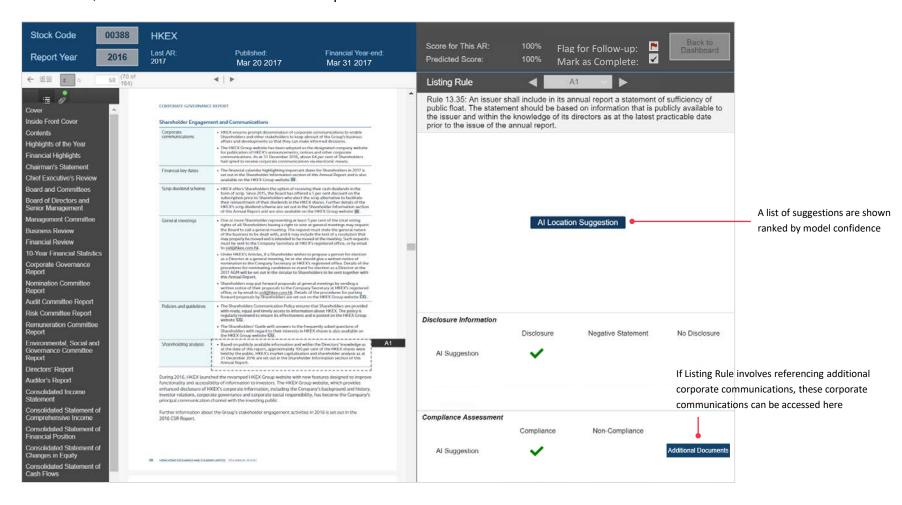






### Platform interface: Annual Report review page

Users go over issuers' Annual Reports on the **Annual Report review page**. This is where the list of Al-recommended disclosures and compliance suggestions are shown and users decide whether issuers are compliant. If the Al suggestions are incorrect, users submit corrections separately to optimise the Al models. The relevant corporate communications can be accessed for further verification; see the next slide for selected examples.





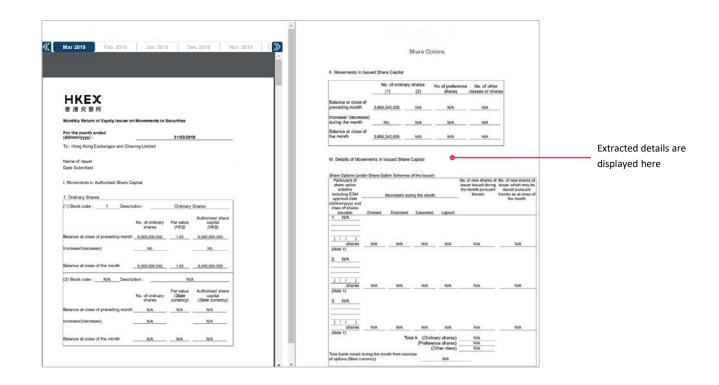
## Platform interface: samples of corporate communications referenced

Share Repurchase Reports

#### **Share Repurchase Reports**

Stock Code	Trading Date	# Securities Purchased	Total Purchase Price	Source
00000	Sep 6 2019	288,000	HKD 25,719,675.00	<u>Link</u>
00000	Sep 5 2019	550,000	HKD 49,695,800.00	<u>Link</u>
00000	Sep 4 2019	600,000	HKD 54,489,700.00	<u>Link</u>
	Total in FY	1,438,000	HKD 130,005,175.00	

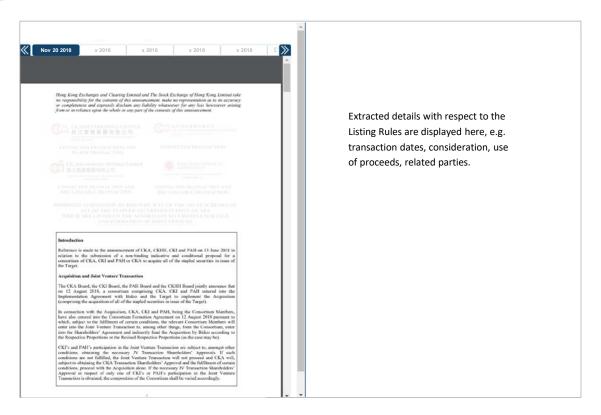
Monthly Returns





## Platform interface: samples of corporate communications referenced

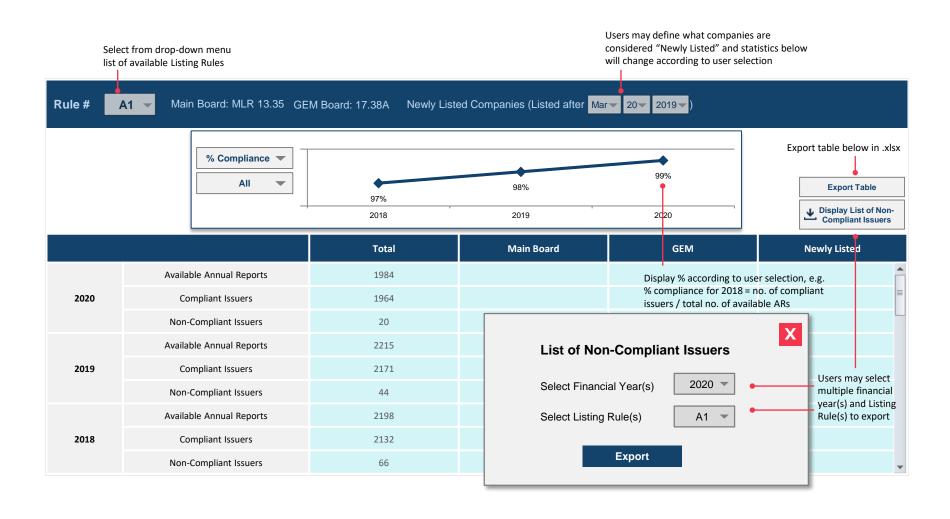
Transaction announcements





## Platform interface: analysis by Listing Rule

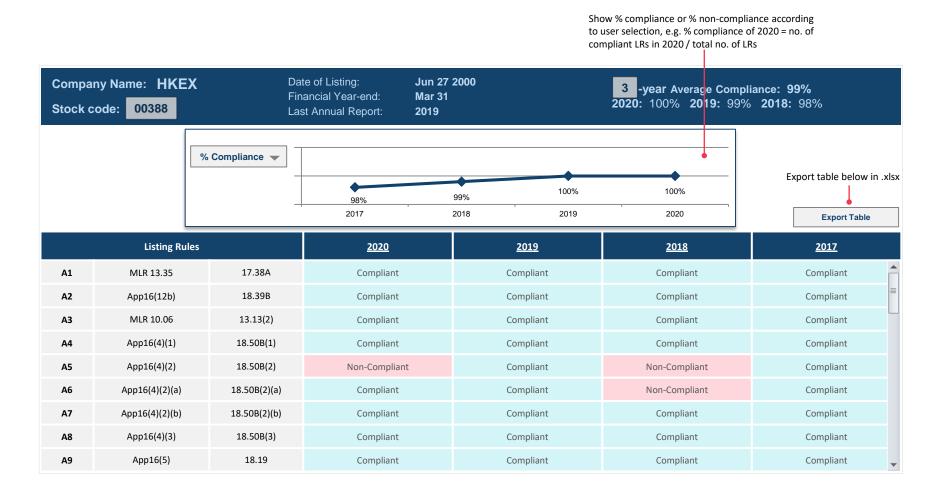
Details of issuer compliance by Listing Rule is displayed for the Listing Division's further analysis and follow-ups.





## Platform interface: analysis by issuer

Users may also look into compliance rates of a particular issuer over the years to have a better understanding.







## The project in numbers

### Training data N



Annual reports: 3,800+ tagged twice

Corporate communications: 400+ tagged

140+ disclosure location + No. of Listing Rule requirements trained: compliance assessment

% of all Listing Rules: 100% of "machine-friendly" Rules

**Around 80% of total Rules** 

### Overall performance<sup>1</sup>

Precision rates:



Disclosure **Compliance** 90% 98%

Recall rates: 86% 79%

Accuracy rates: 85% 84%

Issuer compliance rates: 92-97%

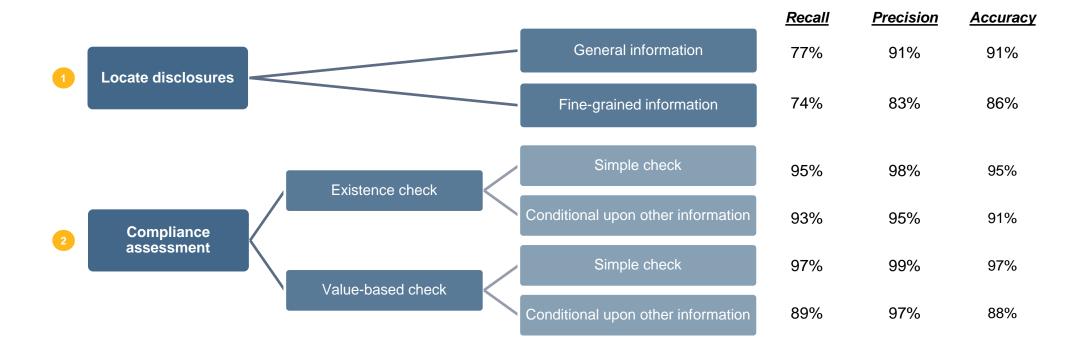
Time saved per Annual Report: 80% less time taken compared

with human review alone



## The project in numbers

### **Model performance of different Listing Rule categories**





### Al model performance

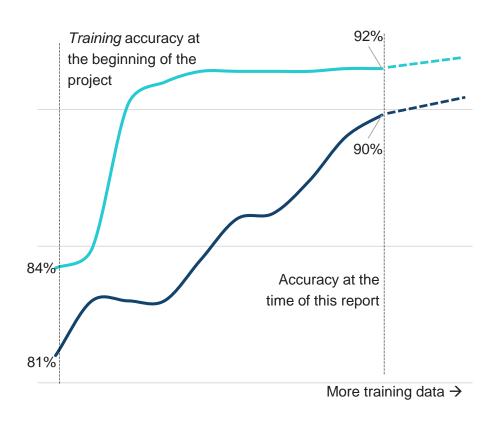
### Bad case analysis and model improvement

Model construction requires a large amount of training data. The more good quality data there is, the better the AI models perform and it is especially so for the case of deep learning.

Apart from "feeding" more relevant disclosures and respective compliance to the model, bad case analysis is also highly relevant, especially towards the later stages of platform development. Users review preliminary AI suggestions and verify / correct accurate / inaccurate cases and adjust algorithms and logic statements (which affects also document tagging) for continuous platform optimisation.

The platform performance has steadily increased during the development of the model. Overall accuracy rates for location of Annual Report disclosures (Step 2) and issuer compliance recommendation (Step 3) for the training set reached 90% and 92% respectively at the final stages of the project. We then tested the model against 50 "unseen" Annual Reports, i.e. new reports that were not part of the training data, and the resulting accuracy rates were 84% and 85% respectively. We hope to continuously improve the performance through regular review of data generated from user verification.







## **Key takeaways**

### Adjustments required for review and assessment

Since implementation, the platform has significantly improved the review process of Annual Report disclosures and Listing Rule compliance. Document retrieval and record retention are automated and workflows are optimised through AI-suggested disclosure location and compliance assessment. With the help of the platform, the time taken to review each Annual Report has reduced by around 80% compared with human review alone.

Noting especially that the Annual Reports and corporate communications being reviewed are highly unstructured and the number of positive examples for some Listing Rules remain low, the model construction process was not without its challenges. Below are some of the key adjustments we made during the process of platform construction and project design:

#### · Lopsided training data

Training AI models against mostly compliant issuers naturally means that the number of non-compliant cases available for training is very limited. As a result, the model is less confident in the identification and assessment of non-compliance. Given the ultimate goal is to locate

non-compliant cases, we have adjusted the model to allow for a higher % of false negatives (compliance incorrectly suggested as non-compliance) compared with that of false positives, i.e. higher recall and lower precision. The human review process that follows creates further corrections for model training and optimisation.

### · Amount of document tagging required

For most of the Listing Rules, we were able to achieve relatively high accuracy in the simple location of disclosures (without fine-grained information or categorising whether disclosure located is a positive or negative statement) with less than 500 Annual Reports tagged. It becomes challenging only as the machine needs to interpret semantic meaning and locate precise data points. While more training data and/or user corrections can get to better AI performance, for our case the rate of accuracy increase lowers as more data is tagged. Sometimes the appropriate use of business rules and keywords would save a lot of time and costs incurred.

### Bilingual Annual Reports

As we have decided to focus on training English Annual Reports in our project, the process of document structure recognition was adjusted to locate and process only the English equivalents in bilingual Annual Reports.



### **Key takeaways**

In addition, we have the following observations applicable to developing general AI models for purposes beyond compliance assessment and regulatory uses.

- Pinpoint the business problems and objectives
   Solving for too many scenarios at once can become difficult to manage.
   In our case of Listing Rule compliance review, we have created subsets solving for specific attributes (e.g. number of share options cancelled) instead of all relevant information at once.
- Take time to think through the training setup

  The granularity of the tagging should match how detailed the resulting fine-grained information needs to be. There are often multiple valid inputs for a single business requirement, so make sure to consider all of them. Introduce a diverse team of talent in order to minimise bias stemming from subject matter comprehension.
- The quality of the tagged information is extremely important
  The set of training data is essentially a baseline for model construction
  and analysis and serves as the foundation for the platform. Develop a
  valid quality checking system to ensure information tagged is relevant
  and accurate. Consult subject matter expertise whenever the need
  arises.

Regularly test the model with end users to collect feedback
 Not only does it create a continuous stream of correction for model optimisation through process depicted below, it ensures that any business rules identified remain valid and accurate.







### What the future holds

# Capturing the power of technology to improve transparency in our markets

Technology is one of the three focus areas identified in the HKEX Group Strategic Plan 2019-2021. Against the backdrop of an accelerating pace of technological innovation in the financial industry, HKEX will continue to focus on applying new technologies to modernise its core functions in order to enable greater operational efficiency. HKEX's ambition to be a globally trusted and innovative organisation is matched by its commitment to deliver the highest standards of integrity and transparency to the markets and communities it serves.

HKEX will continue this initiative with a long term view to promote completeness in issuer disclosures, and more generally, to apply Al to improve efficiency in other vetting processes. Future areas of research include extending the platform developed with PAI Tech to results announcements and other types of regular corporate communications.

For further enquiries, please contact the project team at Listed Issuer Regulation under HKEX's Listing Division (<u>LIRIT@hkex.com.hk</u>) or PAI Tech (contact@paodingai.com).



#### **About HKEX**



#### **About PAI Tech**



Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) is one of the world's major exchange groups, and operates a range of equity, commodity, fixed income and currency markets. HKEX is the world's leading IPO market and as Hong Kong's only securities and derivatives exchange and sole operator of its clearing houses, it is uniquely placed to offer regional and international investors access to Asia's most vibrant markets.

HKEX is also the global leader in metals trading, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, The London Metal Exchange (LME) and LME Clear Limited. This commodity franchise was further enhanced with the launch of Qianhai Mercantile Exchange (QME), in China, in 2018.

HKEX launched the pioneering Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect programme in 2014, further expanded with the launch of Shenzhen Connect in 2016, and the launch of Bond Connect in 2017.

www.hkexgroup.com

Beijing Paoding Technology Limited Company (PAI Tech), the leading pioneer in the field of 'document intelligence', provides the desktop tools, SaaS services and enterprise-level applications for intelligent writing, review, and reusing of business documents. Rooted in the financial industry with the focus on the RegTech, we aim to relieve the compliance and efficiency issues in financial document processing. Also, based on our document intelligence platform which supports customised plug-in development, we are cultivating the ecosystem across various industries.

Our current clients include the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the three major stock exchanges in China (Shanghai Stock Exchange, Shenzhen Stock Exchange, and HKEX), the top 10 securities firms in China, as well as several banks, asset management companies and accounting firms.

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