

SOFTENG 761: Advanced Agile and Lean Software Development

Rationale Investigation 1 (10% of final grade)

Due: 11:59pm, 28th July 2021 (Middle of Week 2)

Learning outcomes

The purpose of this assignment is to target the following learning outcomes:

- *Infer, identify and explain* underlying rationales from minimal project descriptions,
- *Critically examine* online information to illustrate project significance,
- *Organise* your investigation into *concise* and *convincing* flow, backed by appropriate evidence.

Speed Rationales

This assignment is about developing the skills to quickly and efficiently research project descriptions, and to demonstrate a deeper appreciation for what their rationale could be. As of this moment, all we have from the clients are whatever descriptions that they proposed, in terms of the idea of what they (think) they would like developed. In some cases, these descriptions are specific around the tool/application they would like to see, in some cases there are more information than other descriptions. We have to accept this is all we have to go by for now.

Here's what you need to do:

1. From the project topics on offer, pick any *three* that you want.
2. For each of the three topics you selected, you should aim to write two paragraphs on each one (i.e. about 1/3 of a page for each of the topics you select).
3. Have a clear sub-heading to say what each topic is you are writing about.
4. Based on these descriptions, you are to infer the proposed rationale of each topic. Make sure you read carefully the lecture content¹ about rationales. Why is the topic important? Is there a crisis of some sort? Is the rationale in regards to some economic, social, diversity, equity, etc implication?
5. It should be clear from your writing as to why you have selected these topics. It needs to be apparent from the way you write that there's something about it that resonates with you. What this means is, what you write about these topics should be clearly meaningful for someone to care about it.

¹<https://softeng761.digitaledu.ac.nz/topics/project-rationale>

6. With that said, do NOT use personal language such as "*I chose to write about this project because it is close at heart to me*" etc. This sort of language makes for a weak rationale, as it appears that only YOU (the author) actually cares about this topic (and that's why you are writing using such a personal tone). Instead, you need to emphasise the importance of the rationale more strongly (e.g. globally-relevant, or touching a large community or audience rather than just a few people). The "*Who cares?*" needs to be evident. The reader needs to be convinced that they should also care about this topic.
7. You should not be discussing anything around "the solution" (or the product that the client is trying to describe). Focus only on the bigger-picture rationale. This means you will most likely not even make mention of "the thing" that the client has described they want you to implement.
8. Do a little bit of research, searching for some authoritative stats or data that you can refer to. It does not need to be academic articles (in fact, for this report it is probably preferred not to be academic documents). The citations you refer to should be freely publicly accessible without a login (i.e. click on a link and it takes you to the stats), and not be something that the reader needs to log into (i.e. avoid having articles that require membership/subscription/registration to read). This document needs to be a "quick stop" summary of the rationales for the three topics you selected.
 - (a) You should include the citations from where you got the data. These citations should be such that the reader can click on the citation and be taken directly to the website where you got the data from.
 - (b) Try to find at least one (good) citation for each rationale you try to argue for.
 - (c) You can make the citations at the bottom of the page small, or even make them footnotes.
 - (d) For this report, you don't need a heading called "References". Just list them in a concise and tidy manner. You need to keep the entire report to a page.
 - (e) You can use any citation style you want (e.g. APA, IEEE, etc), just be concise and consistent. Links should be clickable for easy access to it.

Format of report

- A single A4 page for the entire report (i.e. one page). This includes footnotes of references (therefore you don't need many references, maybe 3-5 in total is expected). You should be maximising the space you have for this one page. If your page is noticeably empty (e.g. only 75% of the page is used up), this won't appear like you maximised the space available to discuss strong and convincing rationales.
- Single column (similar to this handout).
- Healthy margins (similar to this handout).
- Font size: 11 (similar to this handout).

Marking Rubric

The assignment will be marked out of 20 marks, and will be scaled to 10% of the course:

- Content (15 marks in total – 5 marks for each topic):
 - The “So what?” is apparent, the importance/significance of wider topic area.
 - The “Who cares?” is apparent, globally-relevant or a large community, convincing.
 - Avoid discussing anything around “the solution” (e.g. the software application). Stick to the vision.
- Research (2 marks):
 - Relevant references.
 - Publicly accessible sources.
 - Number of references (at least 1 for each rationale and about 3-5 in total).
 - Consistent citation style with a concise and tidy manner.
- Writing style (3 marks):
 - Avoid personal or casual language/tone.
 - Grammar, spelling, and punctuation etc.
 - Correct formatting (font size, single column, healthy margins, making use of the page space limits, etc), also professional and tidy formatting.

Penalties apply for going over the page limits.

Submission

You will submit your final report via Canvas. Submit the following, in a single PDF file (i.e. combine the cover sheet with the report as a single file):

- A **signed and dated Cover Sheet** stating that you worked on the assignment independently, and that it is your own work. Include your name, ID number, the date, the course and assignment number. You can generate and download this in Canvas, see the Cover Sheet entry, and
- The (one-page) report itself.

You must double check that you have uploaded the correct file for marking! This includes that you include both the cover sheet and report as a single PDF file. There will be no exceptions if you accidentally submitted the wrong files, regardless of whether you can prove you did not modify them since the deadline. No exceptions. Get into the habit of downloading them again, and double-checking all is there and correct.

Academic honesty

- The work done on this assignment must be your own work.
- **The final version of each students' reports will be checked using Turnitin.** This will not only compare your report with online and academic databases, but it will also compare between your peers' reports. These reports will be entered and saved into the Turnitin collection, and will therefore be compared against other future submissions. Submissions with suspicious similarity will result in an Investigative Meeting, and will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee.
- Penalties for copying will be severe – to avoid being caught copying, don't do it.
- To ensure you are not identified as cheating you should follow these points:
 - Always do individual assignments by yourself.
 - Never show or give another person your code.
 - Keep your workspace private, and do not share your documents with anyone.
 - Never put your work in a public place (e.g. Reddit, public GitHub repository, forums, your website).
 - Never leave your computer unattended. You are responsible for the security of your account.
 - Ensure you always remove your USB flash drive from the computer before you log off.
 - Frequently commit your work to something like GitHub or use Document History in tools like Google Docs. This provides a track record of your work and will allow the teaching team to follow your footsteps as you completed your assignment. If you do not frequently commit or show a track record of your progress, it will look suspicious if you are picked up by Turnitin and don't have such a history to demonstrate your progress.

Late submissions

Late submissions for this assignment will incur the following penalties:

- 10% penalty for zero to 12 hours late,
- 20% penalty for 13 to 24 hours late,
- 100% penalty for over 24 hours late (Canvas dropbox automatically closes).