

September 19, 2017

Deliverable #1 An Introduction to the Project

1. CHOOSING A PROJECT

For our testing framework project, we were instructed to select a project from a list of H/FOSS projects. After assessing our team's strengths and weaknesses as related to software engineering and with which language we felt most comfortable coding with, we selected the project Sigmah

A. Sigmah

- i. Sigmah is essentially an open source information management software. Sigmah is backed and funded by several French companies who funded this software as an international aid handler, if you will. With the surplus of data that comes in from international aid projects, this software will help with ease of access and consistent data management.
- ii. Sigmah is coded in Java with an SQL database. What luck for our team as two out of our three members have just recently had a course in using databases with SQL, and we all three would have preferred to code in Java. This paired with one of our member's previous knowledge and experience with scripts, we felt as if we were one step ahead of the game by choosing project Sigmah.

2. CLONING AND BUILDING

A. Sigmah

- i. When we first encountered problems building Sigmah, initially, we thought we had just missed a step somewhere in the instructions provided with the Sigmah API. However, upon further investigation we found out what the real problem was. It seems as if there are several different sets of instructions for how to compile and build Sigmah in several locations. Somehow in the mix of following these instructions over a course of a few days we had mixed up our instruction sets. Clearly we should have kept better track of which instruction set we had used, but at the time we were unaware that there was more than one. For the future, we would recommend that the developers of Sigmah be more specific and consistent with their instruction sets, as one set found on their GitHub was different from an "equivalent" set found on their website. Consistency is key in a situation where you have an open source software that you have a need to be committed to, otherwise no one will be able to contribute.

3. TESTING AND RESULTS

A. Sigmah

- i. Sigmah came pre-loaded with their own testing framework accessible in the source files. We ran their tests, or rather their tests were run automatically upon completion of the build and all of their test cases outputted a passing result. We were then able to visualize what our final project would have to entail by examining how they approached their own testing framework.