Software Engineering Research Project | 2020 Group 9
Weekly Report S1W4

What have I done for the project this week individually?

This week I revisited notes taken during our first client meeting in order to refresh on some details of the new pandemic modelling topic. From here I began exploring and collecting various data sources relating to the current evolving Covid-19 pandemic. This data involved confirmed cases over time, separated by location (international and within Australia), demographics as well as transmission sources. I found a quite useful source of numeric data which can be exported in various formats, most useful for our purposes, csv.
Also important to this information is context, hence I also collected some documented research and textual descriptions of certain factors and statistics, such as deaths, testing, cases and how they are classified and mortality. These benefit us in understanding how different factors affect the data and thus suggest how they may be considered and implemented into the model.

I also sought out similar data regarding the population of Australia, separate from the pandemic. This was suggested by Andy as a good starting point for the model as the population will likely be one of the key factors in the model and an important parameter in many considerations and calculations.

I also trialled the Zoom online meeting tool in preparation for our upcoming client meeting to ensure audio, video and screensharing were all functioning and familiarise myself with it.

What do I plan to do for the project next week individually?

Most of my activities this week concerned sourcing and collecting data as well as some domain knowledge regarding pandemics, in particular Covid-19. Next week I plan to comb over this data to gain a better understanding of its format, analyse it in context and document some notes on how we may be able to use it.

Through my exploration this week, and general exposure to information regarding the pandemic I noticed even more so how the data and information is continuously being updated, which indicated that devising an automated way to pull frequent updated data may make our process more efficient. In the coming week I will investigate the feasibility and usefulness of setting up a news scraper, and a tool to automatically fetch data.

List the issues you encountered and give some reasons if applicable…

There were no major issues I encountered this week. However, the completely external nature of University study and group communication is starting to show its difficulties. However, I believe everyone is experiencing this and I believe a bit of patience and time to adjust will hopefully alleviate this.