Software Engineering Research Project | 2020 Group 9
Weekly Report S1W3

What have I done for the project this week individually?

This week I planned for the client meeting, which entailed revising the project domain and summarising the main questions I wanted to focus on during said client meeting. I incorporated these questions into the agenda for the meeting which I assisted in preparing and delivered to all participants.

In preparation for the client meeting I revised my understanding of data farming, which was a key component of the project, in particular its differences from data mining. Related to this was the issue of lean-data and why data farming was appropriate to deal with this. During the client meeting we were informed that the client has decided to take a different approach with the topic of the project, still utilising the same approach of simulation and model generation. The new topic we were given was centred around modelling and simulation of the spread of a pandemic, such as COVID-19.

In this meeting I gained a greater understanding of the MSG-088 (NATO) process that we were advised would be the basis of the process we were following. I began thinking about how we would employ this process into the new project topic, such as factors affecting the model, where we would begin and what would be involved in each of the technical and design steps.

I also spent some additional time after the client meeting getting to know the main client/collaborator of our project, Andy. I feel like this time spent allowed us to gain a greater insight into our interests, proficiencies and working styles, which I believe will be valuable at accelerating our progress going into the next stages of the project.

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

In the coming week I plan to revisit the notes our group took during the meeting and highlight areas of uncertainty in hopes to clarify them before the next meeting. From these notes I would also like to create actionable tasks of research which we can assign individually within the group to start gathering a basis for our model, including sourcing required data, design experiment considerations, and choosing a technical foundation for our initial models.

Andy also provided us with some great information via our slack channel which will be useful during this process. I also intend to utilize slack to communicate our initial thoughts and concerns regarding the new topics to the client. In addition to this we are planning at trialling a Zoom meeting to ensure everyone is comfortable with tool we will be using to continue meetings remotely.

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

An obvious issue that all the project groups are encountering will be the move to a primarily remote working style, including client meetings, due to the University's updated approach to dealing with the Coronavirus situation. I believe our group is reasonably well set-up to work under these conditions, and our clients seem more than happy to follow these measures as well. One issue that concerns me is keeping the group on track if we are not meeting face-to-face.