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The News Team Deliverable 1

The Amara platform creates specialized subtitles for Youtube videos. Amara was written in Python, and contains a database online of videos which its API can access. For database calls to get and post videos, Amara uses JSON commands.

The Amara github repository was made with Docker, a platform that contains software. This platform packages the Amara application into a standard unit for software developing. Docker required many steps to be completed such as downloading their software and setting up the docker daemon to run in the background. Naturally, our team had difficulty downloading the project. Since Amara was to be run on Linux, each of us used a virtual computer. However, after a lot of frustration, we realized that the Amara project would not build because its file size was greater than the default disk space given by VirtualBox. The solution was to manually increase the size of the virtual machine's VDI file (virtual disk image), and then download an ISO (image of a CD or DVD) in order to match the upgraded partition with the virtual disk image's new size.

Now that the virtual machine had sufficient space, we re-downloaded Docker and successfully built the Amara project, started its containers, and configured the database, allowing us to set up a temporary server and run the project's test cases.

Looking further into the Amara API, the platform is made up of many GET and POST commands. A developer can use JSON to remotely access a video, subtitle language, an Amara user's information, in addition to post a new video or update an old one.

Our team faced several challenges installing the software. Most of them revolved around Linux Virtual systems, as we had to look up most of the terminal commands required to download the software. We also had to install Vim, a command line text editor, in order to finish one of the Docker installation steps.