*Who are you?  
(name + affiliations + contact information + brief background)*

My name is Martin Stam. I’m a software developer by profession and in my spare time I enjoy hacking hardware and software, making it do things it’s officially not supposed to. I’ve been doing this (consciously and subconsciously) since I was 5, when I got my first Commodore 16. Since then I’ve owned Atari’s, Amiga’s and later on had-me-down PC’s. I was the kind of kid that drove his parents nuts because his bedroom was also both his workshop and storage..

One of my greatest interests is ‘data and information’. I can get lost endlessly in libraries (both dead-tree and online / digital), datasets and databases. I like to see what it offers and how it connects to other data-sources. To infer new data and even information.

*What is your role in the Space Apps Challenge?  
(organizer? software developer? hardware hacker? artist? observer?)*

Me and my team is mainly just developers. I’ve more or less implicitly taken on the roll of project lead. Probably because of my enthousiasm for the promise of data and my view and experience in dealing with these kinds of datasets.

So while I’ve setup the rough draft of the design, I’ve also written quite a bit of code.

*Why did you decide to take part in the Space Apps Challenge?*

The promise of cool challenges really.. My teammate happened to alert me of this challenge and I thought it’d be cool. We didn’t even really know which challenge we were going to do until the morning we came here. We oriented ourselves in the challenge descriptions, but that’s it really. Eventually we settled on the ‘Revitalizing the PDS’ challenge.

*How did you innovate to improve life in space or on earth during Space Apps?  
(be creative, tell us your story!)*

One of the things that struck me about the huge amount of data in the PDS archive, is that it’s mostly flatfiles and meta data. This is interesting, but essentially useless if you actually want to do anything with it. We aimed to actually standardize the data structure and expose it through a web-interface. This way we would be able to develop apps that can access the data over this web-interface, for example through JSON.

But I digress. What I’m trying to say is that we not only want the data to be ‘there’ (on the FTP archive it is now) we want to be able to úse it! To see not only numbers in rows and columns, but have a way to load this data into tools and prcesses that can generate information from this data.

We wanted to be able to see what happened that day and second.

If we can do this, we can learn from the past. As this data is intended to do for us.