**G6 Internet Explorers Group Project**

**Overview**

With Cyclones becoming more powerful and bushfires spreading with unprecedented speed and ferocity, the communities need for each and every one of us to have individual evacuation plans is crucial. Governments of all levels, banks and insurance companies create generic checklists and place them on their websites to provide a reference point. Some of these checklists may be used as templates to personalise the information.

Our group project idea is to create a chatbot that individuals and families can interact with, to build a complete personalised emergency plan, which can then be emailed back to the individual or family to be available should an event occur.

Local councils and state governments could place this chatbot on relevant webpages or in social media and the technology could allow for push notifications to registered people in the event of an emergency. The chatbot would also be aware if someone had started but not completed their checklist and prompt for it to be updated ahead of an event.

**Description**

While chatbots are being used to provide information and warnings in the event of an emergency, our idea is to deliver something like an individual consultation to assist in planning ahead of time. The chatbot, through a series of questions and responses will develop a picture of the usual physical locations of the individual or family and draw attention to potential issues such as presumable road closures due to flooding or bushfires. Should someone live in an area that is likely to be cut off the chatbot could suggest alternative routes or the need to consider evacuation earlier. Similarly based on the family composition it may offer suggestions as to foodstuffs and grocery items that should be stockpiled ahead of the season or when the emergency is still developing. While not a priority for the initial version a future update could harness existing ecommerce technology to place an order and have delivered these items, in locations where this is available reducing the perceived inconvenience of shopping for the emergency larder.

**Tools and Technologies**

The technology and tools are currently readily available, both as open source and commercial options so there is no need to re-invent the wheel. The challenge for this project really is to come up with appropriate templates for the questions and answers, a process to harness localised geographical information and for a suitable front end to make it easy for governments and agencies to customise the process.

**Skills Required**

As mentioned above the software and technology is readily available and there is no need for special hardware. The current bushfire crisis in Australia that has touched so many areas and people, which has impacted a wider region than our worst tropical cyclone, has caused a great outpouring of generosity from peoples and businesses. It is believed that any specialist skills required for the project will be able to be procured readily from the broad community and business.

**Funding**

It is reasonable to assume that such a public interest and safeguarding project will be able to attract government funding or grants for any required project costs. Each local council would need to fund or seek funds to customise the solution to their local area.

**Outcome**

Once deployed and with a public awareness campaign this project will deliver an ability for individuals and families to better plan and be better prepared for natural disasters, which will improve the safety and wellbeing of the community, minimise stress by encouraging early planning and co-ordination and reduce calls to emergency services and other agencies. Whilst the nature of the emergencies may be different in disparate geographical locations the model could be adapted for any region of the world that has access to reliable internet.