**DAT 405 – Data Visualisations**

I had a few influences for this project, especially Social Blade (2018). It is a website that allows people to look at YouTube user’s subscribers count in real-time. This is data mining because they have servers that a constantly being updated the moment a user loses, or gains a subscriber, then it displays that on the website for people to see. I was also influenced by a person called BDO Bloo. He plays a game called Black Desert Online (BDO) and was curious whether he could find out the actual stats that influence the game (such as drop chances for items). So, he started data mining and unpacked a folder full of data that he then released to the game’s community. However, this means that he breaches the game’s ToS (Terms of Service) and was therefore banned from playing the game. (PM Cool, 2017:1) He made the game better and eventually the developers released the stats and data anyway. I also found a website full of data visualisation called Visage (2018), and the sheer variety inspired me in the ways this task could be completed.

The development process took longer than I anticipated since I was not well-versed in JSON and was still relatively new to JavaScript. I first started with the API key from the website openweathermap (2018), I then proceeded to make a JavaScript document which linked to the JSON file and displayed the data in the console on the webpage. This made it easier to see how and where I needed to access the information and through what paths. I went through a few different ideas before landing on my final design. One of the ideas was to change the colour of the text depending on how high or low the air pressure was; for example, red would be for high air pressure, green for air pressure around 800 and blue was for really low (600). I finally landed on changing the size of a circle depending on the air pressure, which worked out well since I was able to change the transparency of the circles, which relates back to Visage.

Problems I faced while I was developing this piece of work was understanding how ‘for’ loops work since they were a major part in this assignment. I asked for help from lecturers to help me better understand how they worked and how I should adapt them to work in my favour for my specific code. I also had some issues accessing the JSON data since I had to go through a specific path which I didn’t quite understand, since its all different depending on what data you are using. In future, I would like to upgrade this assignment to be live updated, instead of using old data.

**References:**

Social Blade (2018) *Social Blade*. Available from: https://socialblade.com/ [Accessed: 11 January 2018].

PM Cool (2017) *[Notice] Enforcement for Violation of ToS*. 10 June 2017. Available from: https://community.blackdesertonline.com/index.php?threads/notice-enforcement-for-violation-of-tos.95098/ [Accessed: 11 January 2018].

Visage (2018) *10 Inspiring Examples of Data Visualisation*. Available from: https://visage.co/10-inspiring-examples-of-data-visualization/ [Accessed: 11 January 2018].

Open Weather Map (2018) *Open Weather Map*. Available from: https://openweathermap.org/ [Accessed: 11 January 2018].