7.7 Appendix – Communication with tutor

| Tue 02/02/2021 19:05 | Hi Kyan,

Thanks for your project proposal, it is definitely a good start. The first thing that strikes me is both that it is quite a large ambitious project and that currently the scope and boundaries seem a bit ill-defined. There is no problem having an ambitious project , but I think it is important to break it into smaller parts and prioritise them , this will also help you define a manageable scope. so my advice would be to try and create a more detailed list of requirements, with success criteria for each and then prioritise them , possibly identifying a "minimum viable product" and some later "stretch" goals. For the purpose of meeting the TM470 learning objectives I would also try to make sure that your priority list involves building what you might consider a vertical slice of the whole project first, i.e. creating a small part of the front end website, a small part of the database and whatever business logic you need to connect these. This will demonstrate a broader range of skills then trying to complete the whole of the website and nothing else for example. This is not necessarily the way you might plan an open ended project but you do need to build your project around the various TMA and EMA deadlines of TM470.

The other obvious question is whether you are intending to build a prototype hosted locally or something nearer to a release-able product. Don't forget that The Open University does not provide you with any server space or funds to host your project so you would have to pay for these yourself. Some cloud providers offer some free services to get you started but they will all require a credit card to sign up and start to charge you once the free period has ended.

And the final consideration for any development project(which I will be banging on about for the next few months!) is that you must remember that it is not your application or website that gets marked but your report document. None of your markers will actually make use of your app or website , all your marks will be based on how well your report document shows that you have met the learning objectives. The temptation on a development project is to carry on developing code as this is the interesting part but sadly this isn't what gets marked! Especially towards the end of the project you are better off spending time on your report than on adding additional functionality.

I will try to cover this in more detail in the video that I'm hoping to make soon. |

	In the meantime, please carry on putting your thoughts together and I look forward to hearing more of your ideas. Kind regards, Karl
Sun 07/02/2021 21:23	Appendices are your friends here! They don't contribute to your wordcount but are great for things that demonstrate some learning objective (such as your record keeping ability), but you don't actually expect anyone to read in detail. Hope that helps, Kind regards, Karl
Sun 21/02/2021 19:54	Hi Kyan, Short answer – yes, that is a really good start! Some additional thoughts: Don't forget about ethical and legal issues (not necessarily for TMA01), there are some potentially interesting things here. Data modelling and database design might be challenging, it strikes me that you might have many-to-many relationships between muscle groups, exercises and exercise kit so you might need intermediate tables to link these – I'm happy to look at a preliminary design as soon as you have one It is good to research appropriate servers, but don't forget that for TM470 purposes you don't actually need to implement a live server, you could do all development locally if you want to (although that might make it difficult to do user testing – if you do buy in some external hosting remember that you have to meet those costs yourself). I think it is right to leave the administration screens until later, if you are using MySQL or MariaDB you can most of your database management using phpmyadmin or adminer

	And finally, try to find time to watch my videos if you can, I'm sure you'll find something useful in there, especially regarding TMA01 – although you have made significant progress towards that anyway. Hope this is useful, Keep in touch, Kind regards, Karl
Wed 17/03/2021 23:22	Hi Kyan Those are all good questions! See my answers below… Hope that helps, Karl **From:** Kyan Keise <kyankeise@outlook.com> **Sent:** 17 March 2021 17:45 **To:** K.R.Wilcox <k.r.wilcox@open.ac.uk> **Subject:** TMA 02 enquiry Hi Karl, Hope you're well, just looking for a bit of clarification for TMA 02: Do I treat TMA 02 as an organic follow up from TMA 01? ********** You can certainly build TMA02 from TMA01 – as well as the new material some of the existing bits will need revision, some might now be redundant and others can be copied over unchanged. It is helpful if you marked the unchanged bits somehow (put them in italics or something) but this is just to help me with my marking and not mandatory. Would it be best to wait for feedback from TMA 01 before starting TMA 02 or should I continue developing my project?

	************* ideally, yes, but I have to be honest and admit that I have a lot of marking to do on other modules as well so I probably won't get round to your TMA01 until next week. Is the purpose of TMA 02 to demonstrate revision and changes made TMA 01 including legal, ethical issue? ************* It is evaluated against the (slightly different) set of learning objectives on its own merits, however where the learning objectives are the same as TMA01 we do expect to see some advance on them (or at least an acknowledgement that you have reviewed something and determined that no update is required). Overall project enquiry Does A finished working project need to be submitted along with the EMA report? ************* No! Your EMA will be marked solely on the basis of the EMA report. If you are producing an app or a website or whatever this will NOT be evaluated or tested in any way. You are expected to cover the final state of your project deliverables in the EMA report (using, for example, screenshots). It is perfectly possible to get a high grade on TM470 without having a fully operational project deliverable, especially if your risk analysis recognises that possibility!
Wed 24/03/2021 19:09	Hi Kyan, That is an interesting question, really all we're looking for is evidence that you have considered the legal aspects of your own project, so I would tend to focus only on that unless there is something really significant and important from the wider project. Ironically, there could well be issues of confidentiality arising if you tell us too much about legal issues related to your wider project, so on the whole I think it is best to discuss the issues local to your project, but explain that is part of a large whole that brings its own set of issues. I hope that helps, Kind Regards, Karl
Mon 12/04/2021 11:34	Hi Kyan, Another good question! (My next tutorial is writing itself here…)

	Yes, you are perfectly free to ask whoever you like for help (after all, you would in a real life project) – the important point is that you acknowledge the source of the help. Arguably, recognising when you need outside help is an important project management skill. In fact tutors are assigned to students who are likely to develop projects in their particular area of expertise (for example, because I teach on TT284 and TM352 I tend to be assigned students who have done those modules and so are likely to do something app or web based). Hence you can also regard me as a "source of expertise" and try tricky technical questions on me (nothing I like more…!) I hope that helps, Kind Regards, Karl
Tue 13/04/2021 17.27	Describing your thought process is definitely a good thing, it demonstrates your analysis and design skills! Hope that helps, Kind regards Karl
Sun 16/05/2021 13:50	That's great Kyan, glad it was useful, please get in touch if there is anything specific I can help with – it is mostly a case of making use of the tools that Word provides… Kind Regards, Karl

Thu 03/06/2021 11:38	Hi Kyan, That's a good question. I raised the "roles" issue in case of two possibilities - firstly in case you have the help of other people who would carry out some roles, so it is worthwhile explaining how the roles are split between yourself and other people; and secondly if the different roles that you have to play come into conflict. If neither of things actually occurred then you don't have to discuss roles, other than to acknowledge that you understand them, so it really depends whether you have anything to talk about related to them. Your suggested structure looks fine. Hope that helps, Kind regards, Karl
Sunday 20/06/2021 10.11	Apologies Kyan, and thanks for the reminder – those are good questions to ask. The bulk of the report is expected to be formal, although the reflection part can obviously be a bit more personal, and is usually better for it! The analytical / vs informational does depend a bit on the project but you do really need to cover both aspects to some degree – for example you obviously have to say all the things that you have done (informational) but you also need to explain why you made the decisions that you did; and also maybe what you would have done differently and where you would go next, which is more analytical. Again, the voice to use is up to you, what you suggest will work, and does have the advantage of clearly separating the report from the reflection; but it is also perfectly reasonable to use "I" throughout since it is clearly an individual project. You certainly wouldn't lose marks either way, there is no specific requirement.

	I hope that helps,
	Kind Regards,
	Karl