**Notes for Autistica Challenge**

**Date:** 09/11/2018

**Time:** 17:41 – Present

**Team:** 21

Audience Questions

1. How do the users like to engage? Voice? How do they prefer to engage with Technology?
   1. Client says that its hard to make tech accessible to autistic people
   2. So if you have something that has a lot of stuff/can be distracting, then that will make it hard to access
   3. Users like to be able to customise they way the app works. Like, maybe have the ability to change how feedback works (like tactile via vibration, or none, or audio by having a sound)
      1. Would be really awesome to customise colours
         1. In one of the client’s research, their autistic users arranged a series of colours in the colour of the rainbow
         2. There seems to be a preference for a ‘logical’ order
         3. Having a lot of sign posts would be good – users know where they are, where they’re going, and so on
   4. Big buttons would be really good
2. How would you game-ify?
   1. Surveys can make people bored, and that invalidates the data
   2. One app for alzheimers, when you go through it, would say “well done you contributed 2 hours to alzheimers research”.
   3. Maybe show how their answers contributed to research
   4. Or have achievements (like recorded answers for 5-days in a row)
   5. Maybe, having a calendar graph that shows progress over time wold be really cool (so they’re motivated to keep contributing so that they can keep seeing their progress)
3. What type of devices are autistic people comfortable with using?
   1. Unsure if everything is locked into a phone
   2. Maybe having a web-based one is better since both desktop and app can access it
   3. A phone is nice since you don’t have to log on, but what if you’re locking someone out? Having something that’s fully cross-platform is nice
      1. The clients biggest challenge is ‘Reach’
4. Would you reward for each answer?
   1. Worried that rewarding per-answer might lead to people stopping half-way
   2. Client prefers that people answer 4 questions with a quality answer than 10 questions with poor answers
5. Would you allow users to change their answers mid-way?
   1. Client didn’t really imagine this – thought it might just make the application take too long
   2. They are however open to it, as long as its done in a way that’s suitable
6. Are questions independent?
   1. Yes, all are independent.
   2. They’re also:
      1. Scale
      2. Free-text
      3. Number-based (1 to 10)
7. Think there’ll be any difficulties like motor skills?
   1. Client: Not really. Some have motor difficulties, however most are able to use the computer and stuff easily. Still, really cool to be able to change the size of text (to cater for people who may have a problem with reading or having motor difficulties)
8. Is it important for you to be able to modify the questions or adding in more later in?
   1. Yes, because with the free-text stuff, they might see patterns that make them want to make a new independent and specialised question
   2. It would be cool to have an administrative way to add a new question
9. In terms of meta-data, like people make it to question 6. Is it important to know how people are interacting and answering the questions?
   1. Yes
10. What type of age?
    1. Hoping to reach as many people as possible.
    2. Majority would be 20-35 (Range of diagnoses drop off – it’s really only been since the 80’s that diagnosis really took off)
    3. Maybe, if you’re able to define the type of user you are that would be good (e.g. I might be autistic but not diagnosed, I might be neurodiagnostic)
11. Is data collected anonymously or is personal data collected too?
    1. Client: if people want to do it, I’d issue an ID – they can just use the ID to interact with the app
    2. That way, they won’t have to keep putting personal info
12. Would you ever contact a specific user?
    1. If there’s a need, can just use the ID assigned and find who belongs to that specific ID
13. Mental health help:
    1. I shouldn’t be stepping in to help for mental health – number of 3rd parties already that help with mental health support
14. Do they just have to answer, or do they just have to press submit?
    1. For example, if they hit 4 to a question. By pressing 4, have they answered a question? Or do they know have to press the ‘submit’ button
    2. Would having a submit button make it more annoying
       1. Client: having a 2-step process would be good as long as it’s intuitive (e.g. click on the answer/4 then swipe to submit it)
          1. Or have their thumb off or something to make it submit
15. Should we randomise the questions?
    1. Client: Don’t think it’s necessary. Some (long ones) with the scale are already randomised
    2. If you already want to, then that’s absolutely fine
16. Should you be able to skip a question?
    1. Yes, that should be an option. As long as it’s intuitive (e.g. a swipe), or flick it into a bin.
17. S

Questions:

These are some questions that the application may ask of the user

1. Mental Health Questions (21 in total)
   1. Measures mental health, depression, etc
   2. Helps to measure their well-being
   3. Same questions each week
   4. Like a scale – 5 point (liker?) scale
   5. Short version of the ‘Mental Health’ part can be ~8 questions, long version ~31.
      1. Longer version is more accurate
   6. *Summary: 21 questions that covers mental health, anxiety, depression, motivation.*
2. Organisational culture
   1. How accessible do you think the org is to accepting new autistic employees
   2. How easy is it for you to access resources
   3. Can have a different time-frame (e.g. instead of weekly have it as monthly)
3. Free-form questions
   1. What type of adjustments have you made since last week
   2. What misunderstandings have you had with other employees?
      1. How were they resolved? How could they have been resolved?
   3. Acts as a way to obtain qualitative responses
4. Not really into having Demographic questions (“That would be quite boring – have it separate”.
   1. So, they give the demographic info to the psychologist and get an ID. The app then accepts the ID and asks the questions/conducts the research
   2. Can put the demographic information in the app if needed

Background:

Who’s going to be using this app?

* Autistic employees (user)
* Non-autistics employees (control group)
* Follow non-autistic people who work with autistic people

This app is streamlining essentially the resources needed for a longitudinal study.

Client:

1. Having some sort of machine learning algorithm to process the qualitative data (to provide insights/themes – how do they co-occur with other key things).
   1. That would be really cool and fantastic
      1. JPM Staff – “Good to see innovation – feel free to drill into an area”
2. Key aim is to have the program engage the users at all times
3. Might be good to ask users if they’ve heard about autism in media and what they’re saying

Client: There’s a big drive at the moment to understand how autism can affect women. Most of the studies were on boys, so there’s a huge misdiagnosis ratio (6 to 1) – big criticism that a lot of girls are flying under the radar (there’s the theory that girls are better at hiding the social issues than boys).

Technologies that may be needed:

Notes:

It would be really nice if users could track their progress over time (Think of mental health app seen before) – quantitative data

Think of something like a calendar – what did they input in the past

It would be really cool if they had a way to select a way to have a certain amount of information display

Having a nice way to change when the app notifies the user (e.g. email), like to once a week, or notify via text

It doesn’t really matter that much if they miss a day (client will be catching so much data that it doesn’t really change anything if they miss 1 or 2) – they also imagine that the users don’t have to do all the questions at once (e.g. maybe you can have it broken up).

There’s a style guide that the Home Office has produced for how tech can be styled for people with autism

Maybe users can see the averages of other autistic and non-autistic users

**Notes:**

Developing Bootstrap and front-end (via react) to have a website for users to access

Back end has Django admin page that allows admin/psychologist client to edit and add in new questions whenever needed

What can we do for the future?

Conduct machine learning algorithms to obtain some insights form qualitative data

Create some graphs for the users to see how their progress follows

Create a skip button (just in case user feels uncomfortable with the question)