Jack Mathieson Journal weeks 9-13

jack.mathieson

November 2019

Week 9

04/Oct/19

-Notes on class: we're learning about R today, a programming language. Fun!

-It seems that I missed an inordinate amount of information in the first lesson because this is the 2nd (3rd?) program I was told to download back then and have not...

-Installing R and RStudio while other stuff is going on

-Back on Track!!! YAY!!!

-Ahhh, ok, so in RStudio you have the option of writing the script and you also have the option of executing it: one is an instruction you are putting into a recipe the other is a command you are ordering now.

-Shawn talking more about the PoC and Lightening Presentation expectations: "looking for advancement from where you were to where you are at the end of the semester". Using the tools out there rather than letting the tools out there use you.

-**"Instead of the consumers of software we want you to be the producers of it"** -Shawn Ross

11/Oct/19

-Wonderful thing about a journal is that it helps you keep track of where you are at and where you're going. I'm not sure I'm getting along that well with mine- the fact that I need help with understanding how I haven't moved since last week feels a little patronizing. Really need to talk to MRes department about taking course work and getting ready for research at the same time... on top of work and a life (but that's my responsibility, just chill mate).

-Looking into Trello. The flow-board looks simple enough to navigate... at a glance it seems designed more for snippet notes rather than shuffling big things around; might have to get used to that (honestly, could be helpful that it forces me to view jobs in smaller tasks).

-Laid out the foundation of my PoC in Trello: five user stories (checklist to be filled in) five acceptance criteria (also a checklist) and three (running) categories... that's if I've understood all this correctly.

-The main challenge I think is creating a suitable Transcription tool. I figured after a while that the issue of using marks in a recording is as simple

as recording the time whenever someone says something interesting. Instead of detailing what they've said in a notebook I have to write probably at most four numeric characters- 12:36. Done! I know where to go in the recording to find that juicy bit of information.

-Not sure how this process of Proof of Concept is different from the Scoping exercise... I still feel like I'm finding the best tool for the problems that I've identified. I guess at the end of the scoping you were looking for a tool rather than building it...?

-Ok, here's an attempt to re-do the User Stories I tried forming last week...

New User Stories for Transcription Tool

1. As a Research Student I want a transcription tool that can read and work with the format of recording file that my phone uses, like MP3 files, so that I can use my phone for the recording part of an interview.

2. As a Research Student I want a transcribing tool that accurately captures speech so that I can spend as little time editing text as possible.

3. As a Research Student I want a transcription tool that can quickly transcribe a recording so that I spend as little time as possible waiting and as much time analyzing as possible.

4. As a Research Student I want a transcription tool that can be accessed from both my phone like an app and my laptop so that I can easily send recordings from my phone to the tool and then access the transcription on my laptop.

5. ...in progress...

Week 10

11/Oct/19

-Just had a very concise and helpful overview of what this course is about. We want to do research and are going to have to do a lot of work. There are tools out there that can help with this work, but we don't want to just use whatever tools we have in front of us, we want to use the tools that will actually be helpful. It is unlikely that there are tools out there that specifically deal with our specific work problem, however if we mix the best elements of each tool together we get not a tool, but a process. The key of this class is to figure out how we put together that process together.

-Hey! Someone else tried using Otranscribe!

R coding

17/Oct/19

-Going to get into some R exercises today... let see how it goes.

Week 11

18/Oct/19

-getting into R shenanigans...

-Terminology:

-variable: a number or string or any kind of data-type

-list: a variable that contains other variables in it

-object: defined structures that contain variables and functions- you can tell it to do it on itself

-functions: a command- you telling something to do something

-argument: conditions placed on a function that control how it "functions".

-Data-frame: holds tabular data and can manipulate it

-I am slowly developing an allergic reaction to R... let's see if I can survive it long enough to implement it in my PoC.

-NOTE TO SELF: helpful to have gitbash terminal open to help with finding your folders when using R.

-Onto Pico Presentations!

25/Oct/19

-Anyone who has been reading these carefully -which if you have, I applaud you for your patience- they will have noticed that for the past few journals there is a disturbing amount of time between each entry... precisely the number of days between classes in fact. This in itself is a useful indication of the progress this project is making throughout this unit.

-NOTE TO SELF: LaTex doesn't like using unnecessary parenthesis even when you might deem the highly appropriate.

Using R

-Getting stuck back into R to see how I am going to use this coding language to produce a bit of software that will help with transcribing recorded interviews. First step: learn it.

-It's good for maths. Yay.

-Thus ends Journal Week 11, the rest of my progress with R will be recorded in Journal Week 12.

Week 12

-25/Oct/19

-downloading a thing called "duplicati" apparently it helps with backing up stuff... software...?

-...ah, the joys of downloading

-actually in fairness this got up and running very quickly. Yay!

-huh, ok, so this system seems a bit more sophisticated than the Acronis

-All done! That was easy.

Working with R

-going over something called a for-loop, which I think is about running the same set of commands over and over...

-...and I cannot technology... I'll try to figure out this coding stuff later.

Week 13

8/Nov/19

-So, here's what happened last night... I finally began making some headway into learning how to use R. It seems like a cool tool if you've got a lot of numerical data to shuffle around (I've yet to get into the text and file editing sections) and I was wondering about how I could possibly use this to assist with my Proof of Concept idea:

-To recap, what I have narrowed down my concept to is this: I want a piece of code that, when entered during a playback of an MP3 recording, can cut out a 10 minute section of the recording- five minutes to either side of the moment the command was entered- and save it as a separate MP3 file.

-I could not see how this was to be done using R in the time that I had to get it sorted by. Thankfully my brother has done some coding with python before, so I am going to enlist his help in showing me how to do this.

-In the meantime, however, I discovered none of this was actually necessary for me to get the result I wanted. My phone has on it an app freely installed in it which can...

1. records sound.
2. bookmark sections of a recording as you play it OR play it back.
3. cut the recordings into sections and save them as separate files and keep the original bookmarks across the separate files.
4. share the files through email. Once emailed to myself they are reproduced as standard windows media files- the kind that can be transcribed by the Transcribe service I found.

-The emailed files do NOT keep the bookmarks. This, however, is not necessarily a problem, because the point of being able to bookmark, cut and shuffle recordings was so that I could send the Transcribe service small chunks of recordings rather than one long large interview, which would have been much more expensive to transcribe. This way, I can send them something as short as a minute of recording, which I believe is free.

-The one downside to this is that this method, while it works perfectly for me, is not transferable to others. There is no code produced. In other words it does not meet the requirements of the class.

-This will be something to discuss in class today I guess...