

Problem Statement and Goals

ProgName

Team 13, Team Name
Michael Breau,
Matthew Curtis,
Benjamin Chinnery,
Jessica Dawson,
Yaruo Tian

Table 1: Revision History

Date	Developer(s)	Change
2023-09-25	Benjamin Chinnery, Yaruo Tian	Initial Release

1 Problem Statement

1.1 Problem

As society grows to become more conscious of the ever-growing issues surrounding mental health, the demand for support services only seems to be increasing, especially in a post pandemic world, where more and more people are no longer satisfied with just having a higher visibility on their own mental health issues, they wish to actively work on themselves using support services. Unfortunately, many Canadians find themselves in remote communities where they are unable to receive the support they require. In response a joint effort from Dr. Mosser's past teams, along with support from UQAM and several psychologists from around the world have developed methods and approaches to assist psychiatrists with diagnosing mental health issues.

In this capstone project, our team will be designing and validating a Natural Language Processing architecture based off the works and methods described prior which would be capable of recognizing and diagnosing behaviour which displays signs of pathological gambling. Our goal is to successfully replicate and hopefully improve upon the results of the original studies, to eventually create an NLP architecture that would be capable of assisting mental health professionals in their field.

1.2 Inputs and Outputs

At a high level, the inputs for the system's initialization would be the data provided from the Early Risk Prediction on the Internet (eRisk) initiative, this data would be used alongside the prior studies done by the team to train the Natural Language Processor. Once the system has been trained, it would require text communications of people speaking to mental health services, to analyze these texts and produce an output.

This output would be using its natural language processing abilities to assist psychiatrists by pointing out behaviour of people who display warning signs of Mental Health issues such as gambling addiction.

1.3 Stakeholders

A major external stakeholder for this project would be the CLEF eRisk Organizers. They are responsible for providing project guidelines, datasets and performs evaluation of the project. Meeting their specifications and requirements is essential for the project's success. Secondly, the dataset involves potential "pathological gamblers" which are the researched communities. These individuals are also considered the external stakeholders.

Few important internal stakeholders to note are ourselves, the student developers of the project, Dr. Sebastien Mosser, researchers of UQAM (University of Quebec in Montreal), and few psychologists from around the world. These individuals have a direct interest in the project's operation and success.

1.4 Environment

[\[Hardware and software —SS\]](#)

2 Goals

3 Stretch Goals