A5 SCRIPT – NEWS PIECE – Version 2

**News Reporter:** Good evening, ***<Name of Reporter>*** from Channel 12 News here. For ‘Education Week’, we have been covering stories that seek to teach individuals and help them develop stronger informative in subjects in a new and improved way.

Our first story we will be covering a new application 'Animalcules’ which is currently the number 1 trending app on both the Apple store and Google Play store around the world.

But you might ask what is ‘Animacules’? How does an app that you can download directly to your phone help so many individuals around the world learn more about microbiology?

Luckily, we have the developers from ‘Valiant Technologies’ joining us today. The team who established ‘Animalcules’ and bought the application into fruition.

**News Reporter:** Hello, and welcome to Channel 12 News ‘Valiant Technologies’ and thank you for joining us.

**VT:** Thank you, ***<Name of Reporter>*** for having us on the show.

**News Reporter:** Please answer the question that is on everyone’s minds at home. What is your application ‘Animacules’? And why the peculiar name? What does it mean?

**VT: *<Name of Reporter>*** I am glad you asked, ‘Animacules’ is the original name that was given to what we refer to as today as Micro-organisms, or as microbes for short.

Micro-organisms are basically organisms that are too small to be seen with the naked eye, some good well-known examples are bacteria, viruses, and fungi.

Antonie Van Leeuwenhoek, the scientist who discovered micro-organisms under his microscope, called the microbes he saw ‘Animalcules’ because he thought that they looked like little animals. So, we thought we would repay homage to the original founder of Micro-organisms by naming the application after the original name he gave to them.

**News Reporter:** That is actually very interesting, and a wonderful way to pay tribute to the original founder of Microbes. Please tell us more about the application.

**VT:** Thank you ***<Name of Reporter>***, we thought giving some history behind the app would further spike individuals interests in learning more about microbes and encourage people to want to further education themselves on the subject.

On to the more important part, what actually is the app? Basically, our mobile application strives to give users a more fun way of educating themselves about micro-organisms rather than the usual textbox methods of learning.

The primarily focus of the application is for users to learn more about microbes, virtually through augmented reality similar to games like ‘Pokémon GO’.

We really wanted to spotlight the micro-organisms that actually play an important role in our everyday lives. There are plenty of micro-organisms that are beneficial to our lives, these microbes are used in food production, agriculture, vaccines, and medicines, however, there are also some that can cause diseases.

**News Reporter:** Oh wow, that actually sounds very interesting. I am sure there is plenty of people at home wondering how do you start playing?

**VT:** Well ***<Name of Reporter>***, we wanted to make the app accessible by as many users across the world as we could. Seeing as there is a projected 18.44 million people who actually have a smart phone in Australia in 2020, we thought that building an application would be the best way to get this new inventive way of learning to as many users as possible. All your smart phone needs to use the app is a camera, a GPS and an internet connection. All you need to do at home is to download the application through the Apple store or Google Play store on your smart phone and you will be ready to get started.

As we addressed before the game is very similar to ‘Pokémon GO’, in the sense that you are required to walk around and view the app on your mobile screen. Essentially the application adds a layer over what you can see in the real world around you through your camera, this is what we call Augmented Reality or AR for short. Rather than adding Pokémon to the real world through this layer we add microbes that users can catch and see through their cameras.

**News Reporter:** Okay, so from I understand the aim of the game is to catch Microbes. How do we find these microbes and how do you catch them?

**VT:** The application is primarily geolocation based so, when you travel around in the real world the game will give you alerts based on your GPS location, letting you know that there is a microbe nearby or hinting that its location is close by. Microbes can be found in many places across the globe as microbiology is required and applied in a lot of different fields.

A good example of this would be if you walk past a restaurant, you will get a notification that there are microbes nearby waiting to be discovered and caught.

When the microbe is found in the real world through the application, you will be prompted with a mini game about food safety. When you complete the mini game, you will catch the microbe which you will add to your micro-organism collection. You can share your gallery with or without the location you found the microbe with your friends to help them catch more microbes in the real world to further develop their understanding of microbiology and for them to progress further in 'Animalcules’.

However, even though the application is primarily geographic location based, there is also certain objects and products that will trigger the app to alert the user that there are microbes to be discovered. A good example of this would be a bottle of milk. Before you can catch the micro-organisms that can be found, you must learn about Pasteurisation and why it is important. For this instance, you will watch a video and answer mini quiz at the end.

**News Reporter:** It is truly amazing how far technology has come! You mentioned Augmented Reality earlier can you go more in-depth about that and how that compares to Virtual Reality? Also, just more about the general technology behind the app?

**VT:** As discussed before ‘Animalcules’ uses the concept of Augmented Reality more commonly known as AR. Basically, AR provides user with an additional layer of information, whether that be visuals, sounds or anything along those lines in the reality we live in. So basically, how we provide the visual aspect of discovering a microbe that you can visually see in the real world through your mobile device, however, it is not actually there in real life. This is different to virtual reality as VR is about changing your reality entirely, whereas AR is about only enhancing it.

**News Reporter:** Creating an application to this degree must have taken a long time.

**VT:** Creating ‘Animalcules’ to the state that is it today took some time and we will continue to make improves to the application with updates over time adding more features to further users learning. We wanted to provide the world with a software that is integrated in a way that is seamless and streamlined. That can be easily used by anyone who is interested in learning about microbiology in a different way, whether that be students, teachers, or any Biology enthusiasts across the globe. So, we needed the design to be intuitive and easy to use, we did plenty of testing with school from across Australia and many schools in different countries and continents like the U.S and UK to only name a few. We also had to source information for the educational content of the application from a wide variety of trusted providers so that the users are getting properly while still enjoying their time learning.

**News Reporter:** Well by the sounds of things it really looks like your efforts has paid off! ‘Animalcules’ has reached over 1 million downloads on both the Apple store and Google Play store and even has been featured into the curriculums for many schools around Australia for this up and coming school year. Thank again, ‘Valiant Technologies’ for coming on the show and presenting your application to the world, and we wish you all the best for the continuation of the development of the application and any up and coming projects you may have.

**VT:** It was a pleasure to be on the show, so thank you for having us!

**News Reporter:** That was ‘Valiant Technologies’ with their application ‘Animalcules’ remember their application can be easily downloaded on both the Apple store and the Google play store for free right now!