Project Contract

**Student Name:**

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**Programme:**

Computer Games Programming

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**Project Title:**

Politico – Building a Cross Platform, Component Driven Game for the Modern Web

**Project Proposer:**

N/A (Myself)

**Supervisor:**

Dr. Arjab Singh Khuman (Archie Singh) – arjab.khuman@dmu.ac.uk

**Introduction (max. 100 words):**

You start off as the PM of the United Kingdom and throughout your tenure as Prime Minister you must make Yes/No decisions that will have either a positive or negative effect on the different attributes of your nation by varying degrees. Your goal is to keep those attributes (Financial, Population Happiness, Domestic & Foreign Political Favor) above 0 for the full length of your premiership. The main principle of the game is the balancing act involved with making a decision and factoring in the impact on the different attributes of your nation.

**Project Background (max. 300 words):**

The main driver for this project is to end up with a game that is fully component based and easy to reason about from a development perspective whilst being easy to pick up from a gameplay perspective. The game itself is simple as most of the actual “*gameplay*” will come from the user’s thought process and how they choose to navigate the balancing act of keeping different attributes of a nation running smoothly whilst essentially only ever interacting with the game in the form of yes/no answers. My desire to work on a project like this stems from my enjoyment of games such as Civilization or Diplomacy where, when broken down into the components that make them up, are very simple and I believe that is part of what makes them enjoyable to play.

The other motivating factor for this project is to build a cross platform game, I believe this can most easily be achieved with a game of this genre as well as through the use of web technologies as the web is easily the most accessible platform and especially with new developments such as Progressive Web Apps, an end-user may not even be able to tell the difference between native and the web, allowing our code to be truly *write once, run everywhere*.

I can’t really talk about why this game is desirable to me as I don’t really care too much about the game idea, it will probably only be enjoyable to me from the viewpoint of utilising the technology I have decided to use. Any advice on having that be worded in the project background?

**Aims (max. 100 words):**

* To deliver a cross platform, component driven game using modern web technologies such as React and TypeScript that can be played completely within a web browser on any device.
* Make use of extensive Unit Testing for every feature that is implemented.
* Make use of core tenets of an agile development methodology such as Sprints, Epics and Retrospectives.
* Discuss the use of modern web technologies such as React and TypeScript and their benefit over using vanilla technologies such as JavaScript and the HTML DOM.
* Discuss the alternatives to the technologies I chose and why I decided to use what I am using.

**Objectives (max. 200 words):**

* Create a functioning strategy game for the web using React and TypeScript that can be played completely within a web browser
* Create a library of re-usable UI components
* Deliver a game that works on modern Desktops, Tablets and Mobile Devices all using a single codebase
* Create unit tests for every feature that must pass before any code can be committed to the git repository
* Run the project in phases of work that are made up of Sprints lasting a set amount of time with a list of features that should be implemented in that time.
* Run a Sprint Retrospective at the end of each sprint documenting what went well, what didn’t go well and what went okay but could be improved resulting in actions for the next sprint
* Document, using a culmination of all the sprint retrospectives, what I have learned, what development decisions didn’t go well and how I’d improve them in the future.
* Create a detailed Gantt Chart that documents the sprint cycles in relation to the project in order to keep track of all the stages the project went through.
* Implement a UI that allows the user to make yes/no decisions and to clearly see the impact their decision had on their nation’s attributes
* Implement a UI which is a map of the UK split into provinces/regions that allows the user to click on a province and see what that province contributes to their overall population happiness rating and which way the province leans on political issues.
* Create a documenting evaluating the competition in terms of technologies used and why they may or may not be better than what I decided to go with.

Should my objectives be more specific?

Should I have a more academic focus?

Can my focus be purely on the use of web tech to create a cross platform game more than the game itself?

**Deliverables (max. 100 words):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Submission** | **Due Date** | **Deliverables** |
| Project Start Forms | 01/11/2019 (Week 5) | * Project Contract * Global Checklist * Ethical Review Form |
| First Deliverable (25%)  I am not super clear on the Literature Review and Functional Requirements parts of this deliverable | 10/01/2020 (Week 15) | * Literature Review * Functional Requirements * Indicative Test Plan * System Design Documentation * Implementation Report |
| Final Deliverable (75%)  I would like to discuss the details of this deliverable to define what is specifically needed for each section (ie. Gantt Chart as a specific of the Main Report) | 01/05/2020 (Week 31) | * Main Report (35%) * Viva (15%) * The System (40%) * Management Meetings (10%) |

**Resources and Constraints (max. 100 words):**

**Resources**

* A Windows or Mac computer capable of running the Visual Studio Code Text Editor and a web browser
* Access to the latest version of the React.js framework (<https://reactjs.org/>)
* Access to the latest version of the TypeScript compiler (<https://www.typescriptlang.org/>)
* Potential access to an open source pre-made SVG map of the UK
* Access to a wireframing/design tool such as Figma to design the user interface before implementation
* Access to tools that will allow me to deploy both the finished game and development version of the game to the web for public use. (Potentially static hosting such as Github Pages, or something like AWS, Netlify etc)
* The use of tools such as Ngrok (<https://ngrok.com/>) to allow me to test my localhost on different devices

**Constraints**

* Lost interest in games development and have re-focused that into web development. This may come back to bite me as I find making a game boring, although I hope that the heavy drive for web technologies might counteract this.
* The need to constantly work on personal projects outside of University to remain employable after university may take some of my time away from the final year project.

**Sources of Information (max. 100 words):**

* I will make extensive use of the TypeScript documentation
* I will make use of Parliament data (<http://www.data.parliament.uk/>) to get information on political bills that have been voted on in the past in order to gain inspiration for list of decisions the user will have to make.
* I will make use of the research in this article (<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2019/08/13/left-wing-vs-right-wing-its-complicated>) to aid me in deciding what decisions affect which political leaning provinces and to what degree. (Getting a better idea of what is left-leaning and what is right-leaning)
* Potentially more resources from the internet (following research) that give inspiration for potential decisions that should be made within the game.
* Dr Archie Khuman (supervisor) in the event that I decide to explore Fuzzy Logic further as an application within my project *is this needed?*

**Risk Analysis (max. 100 words):**

* **The loss of data** – There is obviously the potential to lose my work. I plan on mitigating this by making constant use of source control both locally and at a remote location (Github) as well as weekly backups of my source control.
* **The game becoming too large in scope** – The main draw of the gameplay involves keeping track of dependencies, this obviously makes its way into development. I would need to be aware of the potential of the game to become too large in scope for me to complete in time. This is mitigated in part via the use of development sprints and sprint reviews but I will also aim to create a dependency tree/graph that is constantly monitoring each feature and making sure it doesn’t have too many dependencies that can spiral out of control.
* **The game not being “fun”** – Due to the nature of the game, it has the potential to not actually be fun for the end-user as there isn’t a well defined gameplay mechanic, more that the user essentially makes their own fun (to an extent). I plan to make use of playtesting sessions with friends and family wherein I record their levels of “fun” and then take the results as actions, not to implement new features, but to make sure the documented features are heading in the right direction.

**Schedule of Activities (max. 300 words):**

\*See attached Sprint plan for a more detailed breakdown (I need to actually create this as it will be my actionable todo list and be too large for this document)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **November** | * Setup project structure and all required build tools * Implement the Attributes functionality * Design the UI in all possible states * Create possible Decisions and note the effect they have on the attributes (outside of any usable code, just a collection of decisions) |
| **December** | * Implement a very basic version of the UI based on the designs. (The UI should just trigger logging to the console until the functionality is there) * Implement the Decisioning functionality * Tie everything together and run a small playtest locally and document the results, ensuring the game is playable in its basic state. * Gather/Create all assets required for the game |
| **January** | * Flesh out the game from its basic starting point   I think this table will be easier to write and make more sense once I have created my sprint plan as I am trying to create an overview from smaller tasks that don’t exist yet. |
| **February** |  |
| **March** |  |
| **April** |  |
| **May** |  |

*Having defined the tasks to be undertaken in the list of objectives, you need to prepare a Project Plan to show how you intend to carry them out.*

17.Student Signature:

18.Supervisor Signature:

19.Date: