

Assignment 1

Objectives

Preparation

Form the Team

Research existing solutions

Prepare a script for the initial interview with the customer

Arrive at an initial vision for the MVP

Write a 1-page report on what you've learned

Deliverables

Guidance and resources

Format and content

Submission in Moodle

Using AI tools

University Gitlab

Repository hygiene

Objectives

- Form a team.
- Identify relevant sources of learning and elicit requirements from them.
- Explore problem space.
- Research and learn from the existing solutions.
- Prepare for the first customer interview.

Preparation

Form the Team

- ☐ Meet your team
- ☐ Discuss the project
- ☐ Arrange a meeting with the customer
- ☐ Discuss approximate roles each one of you can take
- ☐ Distribute the responsibilities
- ☐ Setup Gitlab accounts (<https://gitlab.pg.innopolis.university>)
- ☐ Create a project for your team in Gitlab

Research existing solutions

At this point you should have an approximate idea of what the customer wants to build. Now you need to improve your understanding by looking at the existing solutions in the market.

- ☐ Pick and explore 5 alternatives/products similar to yours.
- ☐ Take screenshots and notes along the way and merge them on your research board.
- ☐ Make a qualitative analysis table for the features/characteristics you discover in the products.

Prepare a script for the initial interview with the customer

- ☐ With your customer in mind, design an interview script with closed- and open-ended questions that cover the project background and goals. The questions should also explore in depth how that person operates in the problem space.
- ☐ Apply the three rules of the Mom test to improve the script. Provide notes at the end of the script with examples of what exactly you improved.
- ☐ Contact the customer to arrange a meeting or call. Plan for 20-30 minutes but ask for a 60-minute slot if they are available.

Arrive at an initial vision for the MVP

- ☐ List all things you would like to see in your product
- ☐ Decide what features you can and have time to build

Write a 1-page report on what you've learned

- ☐ What have you learned during preparation stages (team forming, researching solutions, interview scripts).
- ☐ New questions that need to be clarified with the customer or learnt elsewhere.
- ☐ What you think should be your next steps and focus to deliver the most value for the customer/end-user.

Deliverables

All your work should be in your project repository on <https://gitlab.pg.innopolis.university>. This includes the result of your research, drafts of the interview scripts, ongoing questions, etc. You can use all available GitLab features.

You will also need to compile a PDF file that contains:

- Team members, roles
- Short description of your project
- Link to your project on <https://gitlab.pg.innopolis.university>
- Each checkmark from the Preparation section should have supporting evidence in the document that you have done it.

Guidance and resources

Format and content

The overall length of your PDF-submission should not exceed 4 pages. Keep it structured, easy to read and to the point. Write something you yourself would like to read.

Submission in Moodle

It is enough to have one submission from each team.

Using AI tools

It's okay to use whatever tools, but with two conditions. You have to report that a tool was used. The result must be dense with value and have no water or useless phrases. Using tools without acknowledgement or submitting a low-value AI-generated content means getting a fail for the assignment.

University Gitlab

You can login into the university Gitlab using your university account.

Link: <https://gitlab.pg.innopolis.university>

You can use the project repository as the “single source of truth” for your project as long as you keep there only relevant information, follow the repository hygiene, and have a meaningful file org structure.

Repository hygiene

Do not commit:

- Large Gigabyte size files (audio, video, ai training datasets).
- Personal information. Assume everything you ever add to the repository will be publicly available.
- Passwords, ssh keys, access tokens, and anything else used for authentication anywhere.
- Databases.
- Hidden folders on your computer.
- Entire libraries from other repositories.
- AI models you downloaded from the internet.

Resources

- You can read about the [Mom test here](#).
- You can use the [idea canvas](#) to describe the product idea.
- There is an [example of a product research](#) with the qualitative analysis table for the features/characteristics.