Weekly Report: Week 2

Investigating Python and Google App Engine
Most of last week I was focused on understanding Google App Engine and getting a development environment set up on my computer.

Use Case Descriptions
From the requirements I produced a set of use cases and wrote some descriptions for these. Yizhang and Lucia did the same, and we are merging these to create a comprehensive set of the core use cases.

Risk Management
I had prepared a document on some of the risk management issues, but Amir was assigned to do this task at last Friday's meeting, and his document was a more concise assessment of risks, so I did not need to enter my document in the repository.

Domain Model
Over the weekend I produced a preliminary domain model for the first prototype, and am currently in the process of providing a formal diagram and documentation that we can use this week (Week 3) while we start developing the prototype. The key to this is providing a model that supports the core features we want to implement in the first iteration of the process, yet is extensible to support additional requirements; for example, if we later decide that some rides can have multiple destinations (pick ups/drop offs along the way) then we will need a domain model that could be refactored to account for more than one start location and one destination.

Document Management
After some usability problems with Google Docs, I have suggested that we use the code repository for our documentation. While Google Docs was very easy to use for those who used a Gmail as their main email, it was not easy for users of other services like Windows Live Mail to access these documents, and the dependence upon emailed links meant that group members could be unaware of new documents if these emails got lost or deleted. We are now using the SVN repository on Google Code to store our finished documentation, but document owners can elect to use Google Docs to facilitate collaborate on work, if they prefer.