

Systems Engineering - Team 38

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Overview

The first two weeks on this project have been focused around logistics - getting all the information that we need in order to start working, signing contracts, organising meetings with our clients and starting research. We have decided on our laboratory session on Tuesday and got in touch with our T.A. in order to make sure that we went through all the introductory steps.

In terms of team communication, since we are only two people in a team, we decided to keep it simple and reach each other via Facebook or simply by phone. File sharing will be done via a Google Drive shared folder, and we will have a GitHub repository to store our code. We may, however, decide to use a different means of communication if we feel that it is needed, but we haven't talked about it in-depth because we don't yet know the nature of the project.

In terms of time, we both feel that we are moving at a reasonable pace, and that we have done everything that we could have considering that our exact project isn't yet very clear.

Meetings

We had a Skype for Business meeting with Ian Crow from Microsoft who gave us more specific details about what we will be working on. We are quite clear on what the requirements are, but we are not sure yet which part of the project we have to tackle - there are three teams and three possible projects, but we will be discussing this in our follow-up meeting with Ian.

We also need to set up a meeting next week with the other two teams working on this project in order to decide how we want to communicate, as it seems that there is a big chance that there will be dependencies between the three teams. We haven't yet set that up because Raluca has been in Houston for the Grace Hopper Conference and therefore unable to attend any meetings for the whole week.

Goals for the next two weeks

There are a few goals we want to achieve in the following weeks in order to feel that we have a good and clear start on the project:

- Decide which sub-project we would be working on.
- Research more specifically on the technologies used for the project.
- Decide on a clear communication strategy between the three teams.
- Once we have decided on the project, talk about the possibility of a better in-team communication strategy

Individual section

Raluca Vacaru

As the team leader, I have been communicating with Ian Crow and with our TA in order to make sure that we went through all the preparatory steps for the project. For the past week, I have been in Houston, Texas for the Grace Hopper Conference on an intern travel grant from Google, and therefore I have been unable to research as much as I wanted to. However, I attended Machine Learning and Big Data talks during the conference, including talks given specifically by Microsoft. This has given me an insight into not only possible ways to tackle our project, but also what sort of problems we may encounter. I plan to attend more talks in this area tomorrow as well. In the meantime, I have been working on the bi-weekly report.

Yee Chong Tan

I started reading Introduction to Machine Learning, which is written by Alex Smola and S.V.N. Vishwanathan and published by the press syndicate of the University of Cambridge, to get a glimpse of the idea of machine learning. Beside that, I enrolled myself to the course 'Machine Learning' by Stanford University on Coursera, which provides a broad introduction to machine learning, datamining, and statistical pattern recognition. Topics include: (i) Supervised learning (parametric/non-parametric algorithms, support vector machines, kernels, neural networks). (ii) Unsupervised learning (clustering, dimensionality reduction, recommender systems, deep learning). (iii) Best practices in machine learning (bias/variance theory; innovation process in machine learning and AI). I also checked out the features of the Microsoft Azure platform as we will be using it for work.