**Capstone Project Overview**

In this capstone project, you will leverage what you’ve learned throughout the Nanodegree program to solve a problem of your choice by applying machine learning algorithms and techniques. You will first define the problem you want to solve and investigate potential solutions and performance metrics. Next, you will analyze the problem through visualizations and data exploration to have a better understanding of what algorithms and features are appropriate for solving it. You will then implement your algorithms and metrics of choice, documenting the preprocessing, refinement, and postprocessing steps along the way. Afterwards, you will collect results about the performance of the models used, visualize significant quantities, and validate/justify these values. Finally, you will construct conclusions about your results, and discuss whether your implementation adequately solves the problem.

**Capstone Project Highlights**

This project is designed to prepare you for delivering a polished, end-to-end solution report of a real-world problem in a field of interest. When developing new technology, or deriving adaptations of previous technology, properly documenting your process is critical for both validating and replicating your results.

Things you will learn by completing this project:

- How to research and investigate a real-world problem of interest.

- How to accurately apply specific machine learning algorithms and techniques.

- How to properly analyze and visualize your data and results for validity.

- How to document and write a report of your work.

PROJECT SPECIFICATION - Machine Learning Capstone Project

**Definition**

**Project Overview**

Student provides a high-level overview of the project in layman’s terms. Background information such as the problem domain, the project origin, and related data sets or input data is given.

**Problem Statement**

The problem which needs to be solved is clearly defined. A strategy for solving the problem, including discussion of the expected solution, has been made.

**Metrics**

Metrics used to measure performance of a model or result are clearly defined. Metrics are justified based on the characteristics of the problem.

**Analysis**

**Data Exploration**

If a dataset is present, features and calculated statistics relevant to the problem have been reported and discussed, along with a sampling of the data. In lieu of a dataset, a thorough description of the input space or input data has been made. Abnormalities or characteristics about the data or input that need to be addressed have been identified.

**Exploratory Visualization**

A visualization has been provided that summarizes or extracts a relevant characteristic or feature about the dataset or input data with thorough discussion. Visual cues are clearly defined.

**Algorithms and Techniques**

Algorithms and techniques used in the project are thoroughly discussed and properly justified based on the characteristics of the problem.

**Benchmark**

Student clearly defines a benchmark result or threshold for comparing performances of solutions obtained.

**Methodology**

**Data Preprocessing**

All preprocessing steps have been clearly documented. Abnormalities or characteristics about the data or input that needed to be addressed have been corrected. If no data preprocessing is necessary, it has been clearly justified.

**Implementation**

The process for which metrics, algorithms, and techniques were implemented with the given datasets or input data has been thoroughly documented. Complications that occurred during the coding process are discussed.

**Refinement**

The process of improving upon the algorithms and techniques used is clearly documented. Both the initial and final solutions are reported, along with intermediate solutions, if necessary.

**Results**

**Model Evaluation and Validation**

The final model’s qualities — such as parameters — are evaluated in detail. Some type of analysis is used to validate the robustness of the model’s solution.

**Justification**

The final results are compared to the benchmark result or threshold with some type of statistical analysis. Justification is made as to whether the final model and solution is significant enough to have adequately solved the problem.

**Conclusion**

**Free-Form Visualization**

A visualization has been provided that emphasizes an important quality about the project with thorough discussion. Visual cues are clearly defined.

**Reflection**

Student adequately summarizes the end-to-end problem solution and discusses one or two particular aspects of the project they found interesting or difficult.

**Improvement**

Discussion is made as to how one aspect of the implementation could be improved. Potential solutions resulting from these improvements are considered and compared/contrasted to the current solution.

**Quality**

**Presentation**

Project report follows a well-organized structure and would be readily understood by its intended audience. Each section is written in a clear, concise and specific manner. Few grammatical and spelling mistakes are present. All resources used to complete the project are cited and referenced.

**Functionality**

Code is formatted neatly with comments that effectively explain complex implementations. Output produces similar results and solutions as to those discussed in the project.