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## Mosquito Control Hackathon Data Planning Meeting

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Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 1:57 PM

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Fellow data scientists,

The meeting with Hillsborough County staff went so well that I can't wait to share one of the top results with you. One of the big successes was that we got the point across to the Mosquito Control group that there are more things the local community of developers and data scientists may be able to do for them than they realized. Chief among these of course is data analysis.

We got such complete buy-in for the idea that the Mosquito Control IT director (Corey) offered to assign work to her staff to help us get ready. She told me they have lots of data available with no worries of scientific priority. They also have a two-week old new data system and it sounded like there is a legacy system that may be a challenge to get data out of (a good challenge maybe?).

One of the more interesting datasets may come from some unusual county staff members: chickens. They work as mosquito sentinels and I guess they pay them less than peanuts (pretty sure chickenfeed is lower on the pay scale than peanuts anyway).

Privacy concerns are minimal (especially for the chickens) and mainly involve citizen street addresses so they should be easy to solve by fuzzing the data.

An interesting possible challenge would be to create a phone app for mosquito identification. I got a little shock of recognition when Ron (MC Operation Manager) mentioned the same Microsoft smart mosquito trap TV commercial that I have been going on about. We may try a request to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for an event sponsorship.

I'll be sending each of you a Google doodle poll for a meeting with mosquito control staff early next week at their offices. This will make it easier for them to find the time and I'd love a tour of their lab. The east side of town may be a little out of the way for some but I think the trip will be worth it. Also, it should be easy for anyone from USF. I'll try to avoid rush hours.

If you really can't find the time to make it, please think about who you know that may be interested in helping with this very important first meeting. You could send me a list of email addresses or just share the Google Doodle link with likely suspects. For my fellow MeetUp organizers (python and data science professionals), let's think about how to get the word out. We need to have a discussion with the data providers about what data they have versus what data we may want, so this meeting may well blaze the trail for the path we will take.

Hope you can make it,

-Mike.

Chairman, 2017 C4TB Hackathon Organizing Committee

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Some Mosquito Control details:

Hillsborough County Mosquito Control

6527 Eureka Springs Rd, 33610 Tampa, United States

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/property-owners-and-renters/mosquito-control/mosquito-control-program>