

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AFRICA

Minutes of the CSSR4Africa Team Meeting

Date and Time: 27th January 2025, at 12:00 pm
Venue: Room No. C210.
Status: Draft.

Participants

Adedayo Akinade
Birhanu Shimelis Girma
Clifford Onyonka
David Vernon, Chairman
Ibrahim Jimoh
Muhammed Danso
Muhirwa Richard
Tsegazeab Tefferi
Yohannes Haile

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The participants reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th January 2025 and approved them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Agenda item 2

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Action: Action items from the minutes of the previous meeting were discussed.

Item 1 and item 2 are carried over to the next meeting as Eyerusalem, the person responsible for them, wasn't present at today's meeting.

For item 3, D5.4.3 has been updated to reflect the node name change to behaviorController. But the proposed fallbacks issue is still outstanding.

Item 5 is being attended to, and item 8 is also being worked on as it entails a lot of things and will span a couple of weeks.

All other items were completed.

3. Revisiting support for the Pepper simulator

Prof highlighted that we cannot abandon support for the simulator because the team in Wits depends on it. The team then argued on why support for the simulator should be exempted from nodes that need to use RealSense camera or microphone sensors directly or indirectly based on inter node dependence. And the team agreed unanimously that support for the simulator should be restricted to the actuator tests and animate behavior packages only. As a result, the platform key shall be removed from the config file of nodes that do not support the simulator. And the work plan and system architecture will be updated accordingly.

4. Environment and culture knowledge bases

Tsegazeab asked if there were any constraints on the implementation of a helper class that would read the knowledge bases from a file. Prof answered that he does not currently have the answers to that question, but he will agree on an appropriate approach with Eyerusalem and hand this specification over to Tsegazeab to implement. Prof also mentioned the need to have a utilities directory in the cssr4Africa project that will contain this helper class, and the team agreed. The team also agreed that a separate sub-directory will be needed under the project directory to hold the knowledge base files.

5. Failure handling

Prof asked Tsegazeab if the discussion of this agenda item could be moved to the next meeting, and he confirmed.

6. Sensor tests for Intel RealSense and Lidar

Yohannes confirmed that there are no sensor tests for the Intel RealSense and Lidar, because they were bought later after he had finished the task. Prof then assigned that he completes a sensor test for the Intel RealSense camera. No sensor tests are required for the Lidar as it is not being used in the project currently.

7. GitHub file size concerns

The discussion for this agenda item was postponed to the next meeting on 3rd February 2025.

8. Any Other Business

cssr4Africa wiki

Prof mentioned that he updated the project wiki to include a directory for all the minutes from the team's weekly minutes for the purpose of record keeping and continuity of the project after June 2025.

Humanoid Robotics Course Students

Prof asked if the students are disrupting the work of the team in the lab, to which the team answered that there are no issues caused yet.

Weekly Reports

Prof emphasized the lack of consistency in style and structure from the multiple task reports sent weekly. He encouraged (a must do) the team to agree amongst us on what font style and font size to use. As well as agree on a consistent structure across the team.

Task Sheet

Prof agreed to remove Gesture Execution and Overt Attention from the task sheet and hence no weekly reports will be sent for either of them.

Extra

Prof advised Ibrahim to work with the Intel RealSense camera for the robot localization task instead of the pepper robot front camera.

9. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3rd February 2025 at 12:00 pm.

End of the Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Action items following the meeting of the CSSR4Africa project

Action	Action description	Responsible	Completion date
1	Validate the data and message types assumed in the D5.4.3 Robot Mission Interpreter report for the knowledge base submitted by Tsegazeab Tefferi (and uploaded on the website)	E. Birhan	31 st January 2025
2	Update the work plan to include the visualizations of D1.2 Rwandan Cultural Knowledge	E. Birhan	31 st January 2025
3	Share picture of Mika receiving her CMU award	D. Vernon	31 st January 2025
4	Update work plan and system architecture to reflect the consensus on which nodes will support the simulator, and remove the affected topics	D. Vernon	31 st January 2025
5	Revert submitted nodes back to the person responsible for making appropriate changes for simulator support or lack thereof	A. Akinade	31 st January 2025
6	Update milestones, add deadlines, and move them by two weeks to accommodate integration back and forth	D. Vernon	31 st January 2025
7	Update system architecture to reflect the specification for a helper class for reading knowledge bases. And remove any specifications of a knowledge base node	D. Vernon	31 st January 2025

Table 1: Action Items