Project Proposal

**Project title**

IRS Scam Information Analysis

**Project Goal**

Analyze a dataset to identify patterns of IRS scams or what type of group is targeted the most by IRS scams.

**Description**

IRS scams are more common than most people believe. People will receive phone calls by individuals or organizations claiming to be the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). They do this to intimidate and frighten the person they are calling, claiming they are overdue on payment or their money will be taken unless a solution can be found with the person’s help. This entire ruse is done to get the receiver of the call to give vital personal information to the scammers, which includes their social security number.

Our group’s project will explore and analyze these patterns of IRS scams in the United States in the years 2011 all the way to 2014. The opportunity with this project is we can identify if there is a type of group that is targeted by these scammers claiming to be the IRS. We can identify the victim’s location, phone number, and area code among other variables.

**Team members and roles**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Role(s) | Email |
| Eric Le | Project Manager | ele123@terpmail.umd.edu |
| Isaac Feliz | Analyst | gabrielifeliz99@gmail.com |
| Gabriel Estrella | Researcher | gestrell@terpmail.umd.edu |
| Idis Giron | Tester | igiron@terpmail.umd.edu |

· *Project manager – keeps track of individual task commitments, due dates and status (complete, in-progress, overdue, etc.). Reminds (and sometimes nudges) team members on their tasks. Reports weekly team update. Needs to be organized, a good communicator and willing to “push” people a bit.*

· *Analyst – Leads team members in analyzing the problem, breaking it down into sub-problems, identifying system components, creating a description and/or diagram of the components (modules, functions, etc.), and how they fit together. Makes sure that all the code produced by the individual coder fits together. This role especially often draws on the computational thinking strategies (although they all do to some extent).*

· *Tester – Determines whether the code meets the requirements. Identifies what parts of the requirements are satisfied, and what parts are not yet satisfied. Makes sure that new code doesn’t break the old functionality – that the system still works.*

· *Researcher – Gathers the data or information needed. For example, gets sample data from clients, finds Python functions or modules that do specific functions needed by the team, etc.*

**Required capabilities**

The program will be able to extract from the selected dataset the location of individuals who received an IRS scam. We will be utilizing JSON libraries in our finished program to perform this task. The program will be able to find the percentages of the population being scammed in 2013. This can be visualized with graphs such as pie charts.

The program will have the ability to create graphs of the selected data. Therefore, we will be using Data Visualization commands to create these proposed graphs, which may include pie charts, bar charts to show how many IRS scams occur per city.

Our program will also be designed to enable see how frequent these IRS scams occurred each year because the dataset has information form the years 2011 to 2014. Data visualization could come in handy for this section.

**Additional capabilities**

No other additional capabilities for our program as of right now.

**Needed materials and sources**

Link to the datasets:

<https://github.com/BuzzFeedNews/2014-08-irs-scams>

Link to article based on datasets:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/johntemplon/tax-collection-scams-skyrocket>