PLANS AND PROGRESS

* This will need to include a significant amount of detail, so that it is easily seen what precisely you have done and are planning to do.
* If it helps, imagine the information that would be required if you were to hand this project over at the end of the semester to a new team to complete the job.
* What would you want to know, if you were one of the people taking over?
* *There is no set length for this section, but it is hard to believe that less than two pages could be adequate. Three or four pages is far more likely.*
* **Here you should give as much detail as you can about what your project will do, and how you will do it**.

The SocialCare Chat project will require various technical skills in order to successfully create and launch. The team at XVI worked really hard over 6 weeks with the hope of having a beta product. XVI were unable to meet the demands of creating a web and mobile application due to the extensive work that is required, therefore they predict their beta product will be ready by XXX.

The SocialCare Chat application is intended to be in the form of a web and mobile application that is intuitive and user-friendly for our beloved elderly. Through mobile application, we aim to have voice operated commands, a navigational layout that is simple to understand and straight forward with the use of buttons. We will intend to use clear and concise language that steers clear from jargon and any form of millennial language. Ideally we hope to implement different language options as we work to cater our application to as many as possible. Languages will be analyzed to determine the most common language in our Australian elderly population, as well as considering the depth of the language. We wanted to understand the phycology of colors and utilize such colors that will resonate with the elderly generation and have a positive influence. The color scheme we have chosen will be that of a natural setting with potentially blue/purple/lavender affects. Most, if not all of these functionalities will cross-over with our web application with the exception of voice operated commands.

The SocialCare Chat will consist of few features as we aim to solve a specific need, which is connecting the elderly with their loved ones.

All aspects of the application are important and have a pivotal role. We want to give the elderly the opportunity to connect with their loved ones through conversation, whether that be through text format or through the use of audio and video connection.

The text format will ideally have various language options, so those who may not understand the English language as well as their own native language, can still connect with their loved ones through the ease of their first language. Our beloved elderly will also be able to send and receive photos through The SocialCare Chat.

Another feature of The SocialCare Chat are the games! It is important to keep the brain as active as possible and to exercise the muscle so, we will look to have a variety of the games that our elderly generation may find interesting enough to get involved. We will look to include games such as chess and checkers, and cards.

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*There are three main online application development tools: Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google App Engine and Microsoft Azure. We intend to create a web application that can also be accessed in a mobile format. After careful consideration at XVI we have decided to go with Microsoft Azure in conjunction with Microsoft Visual Studio as our development suite, storage warehouse and launching platform.*

*Microsoft Azure offers extensive testing and DevOps tools, expansive middleware, an enormous data staging ground that scales with usage, virtual machines to use as containers and simple compatibility with Microsoft Visual Studio for front-end support as well as an unimaginable amount of other functions.*

*We are able to use Java to code the back end and .html for the front-end in Microsoft Visual Studio. Both offer fantastic platforms to work off and have shared functionality between the two – meaning; we can use those two Microsoft products for most of our project without leaving a conjoined Microsoft suite. After development of our application, we can perform containerized testing against massive, pre-structured data-pools created by Microsoft, also in Azure, that replicates devices in real-world situations. This ensures we can perform thorough testing without having to establish real-world scenarios, expanding the scope of our testing and giving us an opportunity to ready ourselves for market. These tests will then allow us to go into alpha-testing in isolated, situationally specific, environments like aged-care facilities and schools.*

*As SocialCare Chat grows, so will the staging ground set by Microsoft Azure. With extra data availability and future development capabilities always at-the-ready Social-Care Chat, like the market and our families, never has to stop growing.*

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* **This should also include how far you have got with developing any features or outcomes from your project**.

The SocialCare Chat is quite a big project so rather than focusing on the development of the applications, we proceeded to focus on what our desired result will be exactly, how we will achieve it, what we will need in order for it to be successful and by when do we want it ready by.

* What: desired result
  + Mobile application
    - We want the mobile application to be user friendly so we will use big buttons and clear, simple text
    - We want the elderly to know it’s designed for them so we aim to have a background that will resonate with them
    - We want natural colors
    - Availability of the following:
      * Text chat
      * Video chat
      * Voice chat
      * Games & puzzles
* How & What: tools and knowledge/expertise
  + Microsoft Azure
  + Eclipse
  + JavaFX
* When: Launch
  + TBC
* **Tell us about the “story" of your project – how it began, how it has progressed, and what stage of the plan you are up to**.

XVI from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, have come together to expand on an idea that came from an individual within the team. The SocialCare Chat will allow for the elderly or those with a disability, to connect and engage with their loved ones through the use of technology. We all have such fond memories with our grandparents and love them dearly however, not being able to visit them makes it really difficult as they tend to get lonely. During the unprecedented times we face through the COVID-19 pandemic, the idea of SocialCare Chat was born.

The focus of this application is to make digital contact with family and friends uncomplicated for those that may struggle with technology as well as incorporating brain teasers.

The depth of creating web and mobile applications were not initially realized hence we have taken a step back to plan ……

* **Include any dead-ends you may have followed, decisions made, and changes that have been made to the project plan**.

Initially we went down the track of creating a web and mobile application. We explored and compared Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services and Google Engine. Ultimately we decided on MS Azure. The entire team signed up and proceeded to learn MS Azure, only realize how extensive the platform is. It became a little overwhelming.

At the same time, we were working through how we were going to develop such applications, through the use of a third party where we won’t own our data etc. such as Flutter or Appi Pie. Or if we attempt to learn a new code language and develop the application/s from scratch. We decided to do it manually as we would learn more from it at the end of the day. More investigation of software’s and languages to be used was done and we decided to continue with Eclipse. The language we chose was Java as we are learning something similar in Introduction to Programming, so we thought we may be able to easily transfer what we have been taught and learnt along the way. We opted to use JavaFX as this allowed us to put together an application and Java would code such application, without us manually coding it.

We thought this would be the easiest and most effective way of doing it. The team felt quite overwhelmed however proceeded to install and begin watching Java tutorials.. Until one of the team members stepped up to say they didn’t have the capacity to take this huge project on over the next 4 weeks due to other work commitments. It was then another member from the team reached out to our tutor to discuss actual requirements as we felt maybe we were being too ambitious, which we realized we were after this conversation took place.

The team reevaluated what needed to be done and instantly felt like they were back on track with a clear understanding of what needs to be done……

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***Marketing/Launch???? Does/can this be used/incorporated?***

*The first stage of the XVI advertising and launch plan for SocialCare Chat will focus on creating brand awareness through connecting with various managers and owners of elderly and disabled care facilities. To show them the product, how easy it is to use and discuss whether they would be interested in and find benefit from having our software in their facility. Once we have several care facilities on board with instalment, we will roll out the application on both the Google Play Store and Apple AppStore to follow, so that the relatives of those in these care facilities can download the application. This will allow users to communicate with their loved ones during times when face to face visits are not an option, like with the current COVID-19 climate.*

*The second stage of our advertising plan for the SocialCare Chat software will predominately focus on advertisements towards older demographics. Instead of using digital advertising, we will be using print media, radio and television advertising to create awareness around our software. A variety of promotional content will be required, such as images of individuals using our software, and a short informational video that can be used for television. The advertisements will all focus on the benefits of SocialCare Chat, the ease of use, our contact information, and how to download or receive our software.*

*While digital advertisements will not be our primary focus for advertising, we will be looking at gathering and analysing data from a small run of advertisements on digital platforms such as Facebook* and Twitter. This information will help us determine whether it is important for us to focus on ads in this direction as well.