Team 4 Bi-Weekly Report 1 - Wednesday 12th October 2016

**Microsoft Cities Unlock Project**

Created by: : Ti Ern Ryan Tan, Stefan Manole, Nadia Yael Mahgerefteh

**Overview**

We successfully contacted our clients. We have met with our clients, Jarnail and Chris, to understand the long term vision of the project. Alas, we participated in a live demo of the technology that has been developed, 3D headphones and app, and were exposed to other technologies in development. We have been given summaries of 2 project scopes that encapsulates a rough overview of the intended work at hand. At this stage, individual roles have not yet been defined. Communication channels will be Slack (for development team inclusive of MEng students) and a Microsoft Office group.

**Meetings**

*Monday 10th October 2016*

Meeting with UCL MEng EEE team and Microsoft client, Jarnail Chudge, where we got to know one another and set some house rules.

*Wednesday 12th October 2016*

Meeting with the entire team and Guide Dogs lead, Chris where we were given an in depth explanation of the challenges visually impaired individuals face everyday. Also, we participated in a live demo of the 3D headset and app developed by Jabra and the Microsoft team. We were also asked the kinds of technical experience that we would like to gain from this project. Lastly, we were given summaries of 2 project scopes:

1. Builds upon CityScribe App - map app, that crowdsources annotation of the environment to produce a richer, more detailed surrounding. The users of this app is sorted into 4 classes, general public, authorized friend, Guide Dog instructor, personal use. The aim is to better improve routing by making it more memorable and personal to the user.
2. Share 3D soundscape that a visually impaired individual is experiencing via headset to another individual. The aim is, but not limited to, to better connect those who are visually impaired with those who are not.

We were reminded to not be bogged down by these ideas and encouraged to continue exploring all possibilities that align with the project’s vision as well as fortifying the ideas that have been laid out.

**Tasks completed**

* We have looked into previous work that has been done up until now which includes publications by Microsoft and Guide Dogs as well as undisclosed research projects - code and applications.
* Scheduled meeting and met via Skype with Jarnail Chudge and rest of the development team (UCL MEng EEE students)
* Set up a Slack group for the team and Microsoft Office group for email communication.
* Completed template for Bi-Weekly report

**Problems**

* Deciding which version control to use, between GitHub, GitLab, Microsoft Team Services and other alternatives.
* Have not set up team roles.
* Have not figured out which development tools to use.

**Plan**

* Obtain past year undergraduate work from Dean.
* Continue research into past work especially code, applications and technologies used.
* Concrete conceptualizing of each idea - specific goals and challenges.

**Individual Milestones**

Ti Ern Ryan Tan

*Over the last two weeks, I have been doing research about progress that has already been made in Microsoft Cities Unlocked, in particular, the work they have been doing with Guide Dogs UK. I have noted problems and challenges by users that can be observed in the demonstrated videos and also the success of the technology in hope to get a better understanding of the needs of the visually impaired. I have also written down some challenges that Cities Unlock Project faces as a whole to get myself thinking about the context of our project.*

Stefan Manole

*Over the last two weeks I have been trying to find out more about our project,Cities Unlocked.Our client provided us with articles and videos regarding the beginning of this project and also different real life situations where the visually impaired have tested the app.After doing some research I have managed to understand how this project works,being based on 3D space modeling and also on beacons,but also what Microsoft wants to achieve in the future.*

Nadia Yael Mahgerefteh

*Over the past two weeks as the team leader I have contacted our client on behalf of the team to introduce ourselves and begin the communication link. I have also created a Slack domain so that as a team we can stay in touch and communicate our thoughts and actions. The client had provided us with a few links so we can see what Microsoft Cities Unlocked has worked on and some background information. I took the time to look at these links and do my own research to familiarise myself with the company so that I will be more prepared for the tasks ahead. We had our first Skype meeting with the client where again we introduced ourselves and the client told us more about what he is working on. After the initial Skype meeting, I set up a Microsoft collaboration portal so that we can post our documents and any concerns we have, which would be shared with client.*