Team 4 Bi-Weekly Report 2 - Thursday 27th October 2016

**Microsoft Cities Unlock Project**

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**Overview**

We have done individual readings on previous work that has already been done. We have penned down our thoughts on extending previous MSc students’ work (Mobility Instructor App) with emphasis on community and empowerment. We plan to extend it with 3 core features, route suggestion, interest aggregation and route sharing. To do so, we will also need to build core functionality which can be classified into 2 categories, tags and annotations. We have setup our website server and have gotten our index page working. We have defined and clarified research that needs to be done. We have clarified responsibilities for specific research topics that may be relevant to our work, and persons-in-charge of the website, and video. We have come up with a set of initial problems that we may face in the future.

**Meetings**

*Tuesday 18th October 2016*

Set up server by including index file and adjusting permissions. Discussed on different web technologies to use such as Laravel and Wordpress. However, for the website’s purpose , it may not be wise to use such frameworks as the learning period will be time inefficient as compared to Bootstrap, HTML 5, CSS and simple PHP scripts. We wrote down ideas to expand on CityScribe app that were in line with what our client had suggested. It involves allowing users to annotate and tag places, objects, create routes and annotate them with description. The target use case was for Mobility Instructors to more easily plan routes for visually impaired people and a make routes easier to remember by annotating information more personal to each respective blind person. There were 3 main problems:

1. If the general public is also in the user set, how do we ensure tagging of objects and places are valid and true

2. How do we tag objects within a building on multiple floors

3. How do we choose what data to convey to users when there is data overload

*Tuesday 25th October 2016*

Refined annotations and tags by classifying them into 2 different classes and building core features around them. Discussed further more concrete ideas, and penned them down to be discussed with our client in our next Skype meeting. Our discussions were around aggregate and real-time data and how we could with the blind in a more convenient and new way.

We have settled on extending CityScribe. Each feature focuses on a goal we believe our client is trying to achieve.

1. First feature focuses on building and connecting the interests of the community. Firstly, allowing users to record a short audio review of a point of interest – restaurant, museum, experience etc. This then can be played back by the blind. Secondly, allowing users to “poke” a location to show interest. This will be in real time, measuring the interest at the event or place at that time. “Closeness” of data to the user will be the main factor for filtering overloaded and dense data.

1. Second feature suggests routes to the users based on the route’s criteria. For example, it may allow the user to choose from 4 different routes – fastest, most used, safest (in terms for the blind) and most interesting – where interest is the aggregate data of feature 1 and points of interest in a route.

1. Third feature allows users to share their routes with friends or from Mobility Instructor to the blind. Routes shared could be planned routes to a new place, or commonly used routes or a route with different tagged descriptions.

Split our tasks in 4 main points: research, website, video, development. Assigned task leaders for video and website and allocate individual research topics. Research topics are:

1. Technicality of uploading and downloading audio from Azure.
2. Creating a “poke” system, the measurement of interest over a period of time.
3. Route data mining:

a. How do we validate route’s criteria?

b. How do we obtain data for route?

1. Platform for sharing routes

**Tasks completed**

* Looked, in more detail, at MSc 2015 Summer final project, Mobility Instructor App.
* Set up team roles.
* Agreed on concrete concepts to discuss with the client.
* Confirmed web technologies

**Problems**

* Skype meeting with client was postponed due to client’s schedule, delaying our project by a week.
* Refine the scope of our project ideas so that it is achievable.

**Plan**

● Complete personal research.

● Begin proof of concept.

● Define each feature in more detail, with the inclusion of use cases and user personas.

● Each task leader should start planning out a timeline.

**Individual Milestones**

Ti Ern Ryan Tan

*Over the last 2 weeks, I have been looking into the MSc Summer final project 2015, Mobility Instructor, to understand what they’ve been doing and what has already been done. I attended Microsoft Imagine Conference to find out more about the tools that Azure provides. Machine Learning Studio, Natural Language Processing and Sentiment Analysis has been of particular interest as tools that could be used to solve our problems. During our latest meeting, I have suggested a method of sharing routes with other users. I have been given the task of the website and also been writing each Bi-Weekly report. I also am the scribe in our previous meetings.*

Stefan Manole

*Over the past two weeks I have worked on finding more about the previous work that has been done for Microsoft Cities Unlocked and also started thinking about the two concepts our client provided us:Real-time sharing of another person’s experience and Cityscribe annotations.I have looked over the projects made by the MEng students from 2015 and 2016 which helped me understand some concepts behind the use of the CityScribe annotations and also provided me with an idea of what has been done to improve the social part of this app.Our client asked us to come with different new concepts about how to improve the real-time sharing aspect of this app.After talking with our TA,I have thought about creating a new concept which consists of “sound reviews” when going to different places like restaurants,museums,movies,etc.This way the user can decide where to go out by listening to the reviews,which give them a real insight of other visually impaired people experiences.Our next step is to present our ideas to the client and receive their requirements and milestones.*

Nadia Yael Mahgerefteh