**Introduction**

**Rationale & Background**

The Internet of Things is a term used to describe pervasive and ubiquitous computing, a world where the environment *is* the interface. This brings benefits, but also caveats. Redesigning architecture, but more fundamentally, the way that we think. Often we find ourselves reaching to check the weather forecast for the day; ten minutes later and after checking every social media platform possible we have entirely forgotten the reason for unlocking our phone. Today, the ability to read data through the sensory overload of noise is a vital life-skill – and has almost become second-nature to current generations.

My project is a way for people to passively acquire critical information whilst minimising distraction by providing focused access to information. The product is a wall-mounted mirror with a display to show relevant data such as the weather, time, news, and more. The Smart Mirror is a means to disconnect ourselves from the *“distraction economy”* of modern society without sacrificing productivity.

Not only this, but I also have a secondary goal. Even living in a world dominated by technology, I find that most people have a very limited idea of what “coding” or “programming” is. I hope that by documenting my process I will somewhat demystify how a software developer thinks, what considerations that they must take into account when creating a product, and the tools that they use to make their ideas come to life.

Initially, I drew inspiration from an article [1] in the International Business Times. This was an open-source project created by Microsoft under the name of *“Magic Mirror”*, available to access publicly on GitHub. Unfortunately, the code base itself would not be much use to me as it a UWP Hosted Web App which is a platform that requires some proprietary software and would not run on any devices I own. However, some of the core concepts I used later.

I will begin by researching what features and functionality would be most essential to the device, then study how best to implement this functionality and prioritise these goals in order of importance and achievability. I will be producing documentation alongside the development cycle in order to log my methods and progress. Finally, it would be useful to write a reflective evaluation so that any future projects of mine can be completed to a greater standard, learning from any unforeseen problems encountered in this project.

Throughout, I will be using the IEEE referencing style as is standard in Computer Science. All artwork is mine unless stated otherwise.

# References

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| [1] | O. Hughes, "How to build a smart mirror: Microsoft reveals secrets of DIY Magic Mirror project," International Business Times, 2 June 2016. [Online]. Available: http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/how-build-smart-mirror-microsoft-reveals-secrets-diy-magic-mirror-project-1563300. |