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Iteration 3 Report

With the close of Iteration 3, it is time for another post mortem report on what went right and what went wrong over the past few weeks. The deliverables for this iteration included the architecture document as well as presenting our project so far to our client, Gina Campbell. Additionally, further enhancements were made to the GUI and algorithm for ease of use and making the program more efficient.

Previously we were going to integrate the backend and frontend using a node.js server and an exposed API to access its functionality and data. However, we've chosen to integrate the backend and frontend into a single app. This has the benefit of allowing offline access as well as single point of failure. To accomplish we're using the MVC pattern to create a single cohesive application. For iteration 4 we will have to create a MySQL lite database and store our data on the user's local machine.

Beginning with what went right, we were able to get all of our deliverables done on time despite the setbacks. Additionally, the constructive feedback we received from our presentation with Gina Campbell allowed for us to establish a clear direction for the iteration. We were also able to continue working despite the lockdown caused by COVID-19 and figured out an alternative to in person meetings. Both the GUI and the algorithm are coming along nicely and we are quickly approaching the point where we need to implement the database and begin to link the modules together.

For what went wrong, we first need to address the elephant in the room. The spread of COVID-19 has hindered our group, as well as all the other groups, in multiple ways. First, the main issue is that we were unable to meet in person to discuss the project as a result of the virus. Additionally, some group members have had an increase in work hours due to working as an "essential service" and as a result it's limiting their ability to work on the project. This also makes it more difficult to find a time for all members to be able to meet without scheduling issues. On top of that, one of our group members is an exchange student who may be forced to evacuate at any point, which makes going forward with our task assignment more tenuous due to our inability to know if they will be able to assist us in the near future or not.

For our future plans, in the next iteration we need to create the database to hold all of our data as well as link the database, the GUI, and the algorithm together. This is going to be a bit more difficult of a task than originally projected due to the issues outlined above. Our algorithm and GUI are both in a good place, but there is still room for improvement as well. To help with the database creation, we can use SQLite to expedite setup.