CSci 5115 - Interview 1 Conducted by "Yashasvi Sriram Patkuri"

- The interviewee was an Indian male pursuing masters in computer science and is in his first year
- He has searched for an apartment and roommates about two months ago
- He used Craigslist for browsing apartment listings and Apartments.com and Google to review the apartments by ratings one by one
- He viewed proximity to university, secure and clean neighborhood and non-ground floor units as important factors
- He determined the safety of neighborhoods using secureneighbourhood.com ratings and the units proximity to busy roads
- The non-ground floor aspect was important because during winter snow blocks some windows of ground units and may make the temperature cooler
- He viewed amenities such as parking space, common room with a TV as non-essential components as he doesn't have a car and spends most of his time in his room
- In craigslist, he saw the following as good features
    - Filters for distance, price, etc…
    - The popularity of the site itself
- And the following as bad ones
    - Spam/Fake apartment posting (which do not have true pictures and such)
    - Contacting a host is a bit unnatural but not a big pain
- An interesting thing is that although the interviewee browsed and contacted few apartments using craigslist, he finally got the apartment via manual searching in google maps and google
- He deemed video tours were absolutely essential as he was in India while searching for the apartment and it was the only way of verification of the apartment.
- In the whole apartment finding process, he found the most challenging aspects were
    - Browsing through apartments in a poorly designed listing
    - No single repository of all listings to browse through
- He found his roommates on a facebook group
- While looking for roommates he found that the most challenging aspects were that
    - Nobody was entirely sure to form a group
    - There were many kinds of permutations. So difficult to manage such kind of information. Eg. X members, already there need Y members
- He had basic expectations from roommates like respecting privacy and contributing in daily chores

- He had no knowledge of the U's roommate finder sheet
- He wished that he had the knowledge relevant bus routes before his apartment hunt which could have helped him in finding a better apartment and/or making the search go more smoothly.