Feasibility Study

Prepared for: DMS8003
Prepared by: Peter Hindle

Executive Summary

Objective

To present the research conducted by myself for the DMS8003 module in a manner that is as understandable as possible and that can reach as many people as possible.

Goals

To share the information gathered over a period of research. The topic of the information is non-academic spaces of investigation into technological- and computer-based art; this is usually practised by a group of people who are adroit in communication via the internet (amongst other computer-based skills). Communication channels must be opened with those groups.

In return for that communication, these groups will be able to access the end product of the research by using a Creative Commons license to share the information within a legal framework. Continuing on logically from that point, access must be granted at a level which does not form a problem for those without institutional support; therefore, while portions or the whole of the work can be reproduced as academic research, confining the research to an academic network would be counterproductive to

Solution

In order to conduct the research, contact will have to be made with these groups. They are using facilities such as IRC and encrypted communications to discuss related matters, and as such, those protocols will need to be adopted over the period of contact time.

Encrypted communication via email is not a small subject, but my technical research has led me to implement a version of the GnuGP system, which was installed using the MacPorts program that allows non-technical users such as myself access to a wide range of open-source projects.

Technologically, this will be the most advanced part of the project - or at least, the main project. Running parallel as a way of investigating the methodologies of learning within non-academic spaces will be a series of hacklabs that utilise open-source programs. The series of sessions will use Processing, Arduino, Sketchup and Pure Data as examples of programs relevant to art practice with technology in order to lure interested creative sector workers into a free-form learning environment that can be monitored by observation.

These programs were chosen for their long-term use in the art practice of technologically aware artists and for the fact that as free or open-source programs they have no cost to purchase, as opposed to a program such as Photoshop. They are also visually appealing and relatively well engineered from a users perspective, as opposed to a programming language like Ruby, which while easy to learn and use requires the understanding of command line interfaces. This is a paradigm whose understanding cannot be taken for granted within the arts communities.

The data gathered might be available in some form of visualisation at the end of the project. However, whether the workload of gathering the data allows myself to activily take part in the visualisation of the project is yet to be seen. There is, however, a number of active visualisation communities such as IBM's Manyeyes and the forums of Flowingdata.com, who are able to give some form to visualisation. Extending this visualisation community is the wider hacker groups who also have shown interest in using languages such as Java (in the form of Java subsets such as Processing or libraries such as JQuery), and API's such as the Google Visualisation API.

Communication of the findings, whether visualised or not, will be of the utmost importance, and therefore a fully accessible online webspace to share the research will be used. After an initial period of experiementation using the next-generation service Habari, I reverted to using Wordpress as it had a far wider range of support. One of the elements that support had was import and export of text, and therefore the previous blog entries made while using Habari are still not accessible online owing to a lack of skills with MySQL databases.

All entries on the website and the final project will be licensed using version two of the Creative Commons "Attribution Sharealike" license. This allows further use of the project beyond the ability of a single author to track, maintain, and oversee relevant issues of research, and also allows any group or organisation (even those working within a commercial framework) to utilise the end products of the research.

Finally, as communication will be a major point of this project, but technology in the form of programming and electronics will not, I will be required to learn and use a business-style slide projection program, in the manner of Powerpoint, in order to fully represent findings from the project.

Appendix: Public Key for pete.hindle@gmail.com

```
-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----
Version: GnuPG v2.0.10 (Darwin)

mQGiBElzpFwRBACs6enFhm2KRbfKHwavKl3H0O8ZdliPDWlW+O+8evpUiA5Fj8hf
hK4PVQFJlKCJ6wIL7TIilm0mrg9aJWj0UvbhyYxTQL+uujMUTVqXcxhGOedEbjlg
U17VsF101KNAqX9o9UVkmHW7cblFzaDI5xjJ241AYd6e2G4bZA5uKV+OFwCg/Yib
rZh4WedH9COjoXAzrOT0Lh8D/3aKbZWcFw+3VXQcVYDtVHqubfNVlSEs2l3+JJj0
Kf5qS5+f1dxgWbVbdE/qXlcuREE9VbklHZw9yKgPyFj/mGVGrRrChlud4xmuQuPi
xopYFGzgVJipfweq/mB1f3QFlY8fo01aVeMxx6olaeVVUFdZKO14YnfRq/wdhcPo
65PbA/wKDeKNAQp65O9dIqGEycidw9/JdYbMeX6DEDt0EXV6TsQl+Iq2pwtdo0Tz
X92WkM0L4oyLbdopyengqJkqjgdqtW2UsE95fbGS69xr5+XLubf9wSv/L6UaJolm
cB/FXsFPjweCR0z4EeNrHaYQWuAyn3PZbqu2r8lQwS0S04NB17Q6UGV0ZSBIaW5k
bGUgKHRoaXMgaXMgbXkgZmlyc3Qga2V5KSA8cGV0ZS5oaW5kbGVAZ21haWwuY29t
PohgBBMRAgAgBQJJc6RcAhsDBgsJCAcDAgQVAggDBBYCAwECHgECF4AACgkQ+oGN
cDDS/Jy1LwCgqyjRNWeth7nCwUxwOOuuFjfSmI0AniuxDy35DlpBrH5agaqy59pZ
9SdkuQINBElzpFwQCACiAJx8QwQG58URwXyKD0VYGlHfaB1gCEiGA+TmtKleEOLi
G426oYOXIqYmVBbkUA2wUt21I8oLHQhYPSXI+i3too7BpxjKVCdN7rDEifZn98dW
TZQ3LNprjA30eQT46Ui3BUXTVjpKW7oJZnIGyevcjhgri4FEcj1ftZWl6em74wEd
9+RhGHb0Mq8nRalpyCy6JVbWu5As+8VBh2HtKUET5+fBRjJm0tfioeRWdSw3UqAW
Jd+6YCDo5BCSzpPHSWq/lwUNA873yRuIVwwQJyCBqWcS5FiKWIgUIQzuk+5T+NNz
wVmUOf9m/l2e8vRFRhNNeMOnFY8WnIcIHUW4JrVHAAQLB/4+0e6myethsc5lnwJB
PH8oEbb7sX43NzwT7Dw86PXGsiHcxuzy+WCsmqMFsImiF7SXS8nCZLKmy5vTIQFL
ClsLUXVwad1YsjVtjagzxomRyPqwrLQv8geg4VPVyxER79+ORqcYDPT2AESS7JTT
dZN6yDaS6f3tIG7XPyGgSwryGBf1hgb7nr6Rr+HdeyX7DaNEux7p5mnQ5f97+qxT
EAExz8fyilexoA3/hO8zABbzWfqLEVPzvae/ZRLlt3tfMX/cm3tyBq8DKr6o8Y8v
z28qbDSmf90gab5FjVKU4xZwyUdYNZ8X/tGLmxC9oXQSLULNe8nczPrJFHetfspv
laiviEkEGBECAAkFAklzpFwCGwwACgkQ+oGNcDDS/Jw+6QCdEnBMVX4BkBDXvuzc
U/AtO47qNv0AnRI6BixB2PkguA0hI4dSf7QFMyoe
=WQo3
-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----
```