Creative Applications for Mobile Devices

- PUPL
- Money Jars
- EYEDentify
- Speech Coach
- Mobile Stage
- Jungled Jumble

- ASD Playdate
- Sentinel
- Baton
- Expo Social
- Practice Cactus
- Mindful Me
ECE 1778:
Creative Applications for Mobile Devices

Instructor: Jonathan Rose
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Welcome!

- Advances in Mobile, Wearable, Computing, Machine Learning all glued together by the Internet continue to change the landscape of many human endeavors.
To bring together people from different disciplines to prototype novel and useful mobile applications

To Conceive and Prototype Interesting Projects and
Learn in the Doing
Mobile Devices are Incredibly Capable

Because they contain in one portable package:

- A powerful yet portable computer in your pocket
- Connected to the Internet
  - more knowledge, compute power & everyone else
- Can **sense** its environment in many ways
- Can **speak** to its environment in several ways
- Can also make phone calls
Mobile Device has many capabilities …
And in Connected/Wearables

Tile Mate

Activity Trackers/Health Monitors

Instrumented Clothing
Check This Out: $35 Wireless Sensor

- **Texas Instrument’s ‘Sensor Tag’**
  - **Cost:** $CAD 35
  - **Bluetooth Connection**
  - **Sensors:**
    - Accelerometer
    - Magnet sensor
    - Light sensor
    - Ambient temperature
    - Humidity
    - Two Buttons
    - Two lights
And With Web-based Software
And Machine Learning

Did a Person Write This Headline, or a Machine?

GPT-3, a new text-generating program from OpenAI, shows how far the field has come—and how far it has to go.
Given Rise to Thousands of Great Ideas

- Perhaps one of the greatest surges of creativity in human history has occurred in the past 13 years
- 2 M Apps in Apple App Store
- 2.9 M Apps in Google Play Store
App Store Revenues are Rising

Combined global Apple App Store and Google Play app revenue from 2016 to 2018 (in billion U.S. dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue in billion U.S. dollars</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>2017*</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>2018*</td>
<td>73</td>
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Sources: BMO Capital Markets; Investor’s Business Daily Worldwide; BMO Capital Markets; 2016 to 2017
© Statista 2018
App Store Downloads

Combined global Apple App Store and Google Play app downloads from 1st quarter 2015 to 3rd quarter 2019 (in billions)

Source
Sensor Tower
© Statista 2019

Additional Information:
Worldwide; Sensor Tower; Q1 2015 to Q3 2019
Across a Wide Range of Areas

Most popular Apple App Store categories in August 2020, by share of available apps

- Games: 21.86%
- Business: 10.11%
- Education: 8.68%
- Lifestyle: 8.62%
- Utilities: 6.12%
- Entertainment: 5.79%
- Travel: 3.8%
- Food & Drink: 3.57%
- Health & Fitness: 3.41%
- Productivity: 3.08%
- Finance: 2.45%
- Shopping: 2.42%
- Book: 2.39%
- Music: 2.32%
- Social Networking: 2.28%
- Sports: 2.14%
- Photo & Video: 2.06%
- Reference: 1.97%
- Medical: 1.93%
- News: 1.83%

Source: PocketGamer.biz
© Statista 2020

Additional Information: Worldwide, PocketGamer.biz, August 2020; current active applications
There are Many More Great Ideas to Come

1. We are still not used to what is possible when all these elements are brought together
   – We are evolving

2. Regular progress in technology & software
   – Fierce competition: Apple, Amazon, Google, Huawei, Samsung, Microsoft
   – Economics of large-scale market

3. Not Enough Expertise has been Combined with Tech
   – Experts + software & hardware folks
   – That is the purpose of this course!
A Few Example Projects

From previous years in this course
MyWalk

Measuring and Correcting Step-Time Asymmetry

Specialist: Justin Chee
Programmers: Tuck-Voon How
Eric Wan

April 2012
Walking Unevenly is Bad For You

- Asymmetric walking is caused by a stroke or other injury

- Has bad effects that worsen over time:
  - increased joint degeneration
  - Pain

- Can measure by measuring amount of time spent on each footfall

![Diagram showing comparison between bad and good walking patterns](image)
Measuring Step-Time Asymmetry

- MyWalk measures the amount of time spent on each foot using the **Accelerometer** in phone

- Phone is strapped to chest
My Walk

- Measures step-time asymmetry using accelerometer

\[
\text{Step Time Asymmetry} = \left( \frac{\text{Time spent on one foot (s)}}{\text{Time spent on other foot (s)}} \right) \times 100
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Corresponding Populations</th>
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<tr>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>&gt; 91%</td>
<td>Symmetrical Gait</td>
<td>Able-bodied adults (Normative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MODERATE</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>Mild Asymmetry</td>
<td>Stroke patients (3 years post-stroke)</td>
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<tr>
<td>POOR</td>
<td>&lt; 80%</td>
<td>Severe Asymmetry</td>
<td>Stroke patients (6 years post-stroke)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corrective Action

- Helps person correct it by providing timing ‘beeps’
Flip the Script
Learning Second Language with a Dual Language Book

Specialist: Sameen Ahmad
Programmers: Yuxin Cheng
Maosen Wang

April 2016
Flip the Script: Goal & Motivation

‘Flip the Script’ is a dual language storybook app. Children can read and engage in a story while making connections between English and their mother tongue. Features include:

a) translation highlight
b) dialogue and questions
c) read-aloud
d) record your own
MyAlly
Helping At-Risk Teens

Specialist: Sharon To
Programmers: Mario Badr
Ilona Wong

April 2014
MyAlly

- For Troubled Adolescents
  - Borderline Personality Disorder
  - With Suicidal Tendencies

- Uses ‘Dialectical Behaviour Therapy’
  - A cousin of ‘Cognitive’ Behaviour Therapy

- Taken from known literature
  - Based on specialist’s expertise and knowledge

- Four modules/approaches:
  1. Mindfulness
  2. Distress Tolerance
  3. Emotion Regulation
  4. Interpersonal Effectiveness
Thought Diffusion Exercise

- Push unwanted thoughts away
Mind Jar Exercise

- Allow thoughts to settle
Muscle Relaxation Exercise

- Identify parts of body with mind
- Clench and relax
Breathing Exercise

- Balloon animates inflation/deflation to pace breathing to
Emotion & Heart Rate Measurement

How are you feeling right now?

- Anger
- Shame
- Sad
- Happy
- Anxious
- Misery

Let's measure your heart rate now! Please put your finger on the camera lens.

65
Emotion Characterization
"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." - Aristotle
Other Sample Projects from Prior Years

- PUPL
- Money Jars
- EYEDentify
- Speech Coach
- Mobile Stage
- Jungled Jumble
- ASD Playdate
- Sentinel
- Baton
- Expo Social
- Practice Cactus
- Mindful Me
Course Structure
Goals of Course

1. Create an interesting & novel mobile application
   – In a group project
   – That enhances/enables research in a specific field
   – Or that enhances a specific field in a new way
   – That is of sufficient technical depth

2. Participate in a creative inter-disciplinary environment
   – Interaction between software & other disciplines
   – Interactions between many disciplines

3. Experience in mobile programming & software project
   – Gain engineering project experience with hard deliverables

4. Effective Project Planning & Communication
   – Through experience and several in-class presentations
Two Kinds of Students in Course

1. ‘Programmer’
   - Engineering, Computer Science or other **graduate** students with **good** programming backgrounds
   - ‘Graduate-level’ Programmers:
     - Have undertaken **significant** programming projects in past – 1000+ lines of code
     - Courses: well beyond introductory programming
     - Including several of: Operating Systems, Software-based Data Structures and Algorithms, Graphics and significant software final year Capstone Design Project
   - In assignment P1, Part I, you will describe software background

   - **Why?** Our past experience in this course has shown that insufficient software background makes course impossible.
Two Kinds of Students

2. ‘Specialist’
   - Graduate Students from every discipline or external specialist
   - With some computer literacy
   - A desire to create new app, in art, science, engineering
   - Willingness to learn basic app ‘design’ software
   - YOU BRING EXPERTISE IN THAT DISCIPLINE
External Specialists

- Are Post-docs, Psychiatrists, Speech Pathologists and Professors, Journalists, Lawyers
  - Who are not registered students!
  - Who I have personally vetted
  - Who have agreed to commit the time necessary to guide the team as a specialist, do the assignments for specialists, and participate in presentations

- Have been successful partners in all cases in the past
Example Specialists from the Past

- 9 years ago: **Wound Care**
  - Robert Fraser was a registered Nurse, M.N. candidate

- 7 years ago: **Mozart’s Ear**
  - Andrea Stewart, M.A. candidate in Faculty of Music

- 6 years ago: **Baton**
  - Zack Teitel, High School Teacher, M.Ed. Candidate at OISE

- 4 years ago: **ASD Playdate**
  - Ian Roth, Speech Pathologist, Toronto Western Hospital

- 2 years ago: **Brain Pain**
  - Sandhya Mylabathula, PhD. Candidate in KPE

- Last Year: **Sentinel**
  - Jennifer Chan, Ph.D. Candidate in Psychology
This Course is a Bargain/Agreement

- Between group of 2 programmers and 1 Specialist
  - Programmers bring skill and willingness
  - Specialist brings expertise and efforts

- Together you will arrive at an exciting project!
  - and work in partnership
Programmer or Specialist?

- All ECE and Computer Science students should be considered Programmers.

- You may make a case (to me) that you wish to drive the application and also take the specialist role
  - because of a separate expertise
  - but should still take the programmer path through the course.
Data So Far from Class Survey

- As of January 9, only 62/113 of class has responded:

- Number of Programmers: 44
- Number of Specialists: 18
  - 3 external

- 113 students currently registered
  - Typically many fewer than that stay in course ~50-60.
  - At the moment:
    - 70% of students are taking course ‘for sure’
    - 30% maybe
Course Learnings & Outcomes

- **Knowledge & Experience**
  - **Programmer:** Mobile/Web Software Experience
  - **Specialist:** Capabilities of mobile devices & basic technical understanding & how it can be applied to your discipline

- **How to work across disciplines**
  - **Key:** to reach across the boundaries of disciplines, learn the language of the ‘other’ discipline

- **Project Experience**
  - Dealing with tangible deliverables and hard deadlines

- **Clear, Concise Presentation Experience**

- **Advance of Research Capability**
Instructor Bio: Jonathan Rose

- Professor in Electrical & Computer Eng since 1989
  - Bach, Master’s & PhD from UofT, Post-Doc at Stanford

- Research: Automation of Medicine/Mental Health
  - Switched into this area -- because of this course!
  - Previously: Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs)

- Entrepreneurial/Business Experience:
  - Co-founder of Right Track CAD Corp in 1998
  - Senior Software Engineering Director of Altera 2000-2003

- Administration:
  - ECE Dept. Chair of ECE 2004-2009;
  - Chair Engineering Entrepreneurship Hatchery Advisory Board

- F.IEEE, F.ACM, F.CAE, FA NAE, FRSC, Sr Fellow Massey College

- Board of Directors of Academics without Borders
Why I Began Teaching this Course

- I always felt that mobile devices would one day take a central role in human progress
- Am thrilled with possibilities of small, portable, highly integrated computers
- Has come to pass; still many interesting things to build!
Why I Am Still Teaching this course

1. The inter-disciplinary mixing has kept it interesting
   – Seems like an important thing, in an era of ever-more specialization

2. The project and communication learning is equally important

3. Software keeps getting more powerful, enabling all other disciplines to do more
   – Automation, enhancement
Teaching Assistants

- **Kia Shakiba**
  - Has both taken and TA’d course
  - Ph.D. Candidate in ECE
  - Thesis: Cloud-based Cache Optimization
  - kia.shakiba@mail.utoronto.ca

- **Imtihan Ahmed**
  - Has taken this course
  - M.A.Sc. Candidate in ECE
  - Thesis: Generating Reflections for a Motivational Interviewing Chatbot
  - imtihan.ahmed@mail.utoronto.ca
The Project
The Project Group

- Done in Groups of 3
  - 2 Programmers
  - 1 Specialist

- OK to have groups of programmers-only
  - only if extra programmers, and only if no Specialists available
1. **Subject** Must be in the Discipline of the Specialist
   - an idea to support research
   - or something useful/worthwhile/interesting within the discipline
   - **must** leverage Specialist’s expertise
   - to those who want to be both programmer & specialist: wait
     - Should first hear ideas
     - I will (mostly) enforce pure specialist-driven projects

2. Must have sufficient technical depth
   - Will be an approval step in process to ensure this

3. **Should** be a new idea
   - Can be variant of existing app if enough different

4. Must be approved
   - By me
Project Stages

1. **Forming Groups**
   - Pair up Programmers, then together find Specialist
   - Form group in 3 weeks; extra meet **Wed Jan 27th @6:30pm**

2. **Project Approval-in-Principle**
   - via email; due February 3rd

3. **Project Proposal/Plan**
   - Document Due February 10th

4. **Proposal & Plan Presentations**
   - February 17th
   - **NOTE EXTRA LECTURE Wed February 17th, 6-8pm**

5. **Spiral 2 & Spiral 4 Presentations**
   - 2: March 10/17 4: March 24/31

6. **Final Presentations**
   - Weeks of April 7/14

7. **Final Report Due April 21st**
Which Platform – Android or iOS?
On the One Hand, the War is Over
Global market share held by the leading smartphone operating systems in sales to end users from 1st quarter 2009 to 2nd quarter 2018

Global market share held by smartphone operating systems 2009-2018, by quarter

- Android
- iOS
- Microsoft
- RIM
- Bada
- Symbian
- Other

Note: Worldwide; 2009 to 2018
Further information regarding this statistic can be found on page 75.
Source(s): Gartner; ID 266136
On the Other, Fragmentation vs. Adoption

Android Fragmentation

iOS 9 Adoption

Former ECE Student who works at Apple
Bijan Vaez As a qualitative measure across our millions of users - we look at the graph mentioned in this article, then look at our own usage stats and realize we still have 60%+ iOS users on our platform. Our end users are general consumers from high school students to 60 year old surgeons. Our surveys indicate that most of the people who have an android do it because it's the defacto cheap standard and all they want to do is text, phone and maybe now & then check Facebook. From our surveys they do not install apps, have no idea what the google play store even is or what 'apps' do 😑 quite interesting.

Unlike · Reply · 💬 3 · December 7 at 5:48pm
We will focus on the Android System because:
- Widely available & can develop on all major operating systems (Windows, Mac, Linux)
- Many phones available, some donated for class
- Is successful

Using Android Studio environment
- Programming Language: **Java or Kotlin**
If you wish to do assignments & project on iPhone, that is allowed,

- **Pro:** Better development environment
- **Con:** less common language: Swift 5
- **Con:** Must have a Mac computer
Can do Assignments on Android or iOS

- Important: your project partners must agree on OS

- Other kinds of phone operating systems?
  - Not sensible at this point. 😞
Cross-platform Development Systems

- e.g. React Native & Flutter
  - Hear that Flutter is better

- Have been asked about this each year, including this year

- In previous years had a rule against for a number of reasons that are still true
  - Creates another layer; difficult to arrange

- However, will consider, but only if there is a discussion not just with individuals, but the group itself

- Timing to do this is problematic

(62)
Textbooks for Programmers

Android

- Using codelabs from Google:
  - https://developer.android.com/courses/fundamentals-training/toc-v2
  - this now seems sufficient (had a different textbook up to last year)
iOS Textbook for Programmers:

- **Beginning iPhone Development with Swift 5**
  - by Wallace Wang
  - Free download if you are inside the University of Toronto network:
Course Material
Three Course Websites:

- **http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~jayar/ece1778/**
  - Has link to videos & reports from previous years’ projects
  - Assignments will be placed here
  - Lectures posted here

- **UofT Quercus for basic stuff**
  - Grades
  - Announcements
  - Assignments also released here, handed in here

- **Piazza website for interaction & upload**
  - See announcement on Quercus that tells you how to access
  - Email me if you don’t have access to Quercus & I will add you
Course Material

Lectures

- Basic phone capabilities
- Thinking/discussion about how to use capabilities in project
- **No programming**
  - Please be clear on this, programmers
  - TAs are available to guide, but you’re expected to learn on your own
  - This is not an undergraduate programming course
- Project basics: block diagrams
- Case Studies of interesting/inspiring apps
- Guest Lecture:
  - Design for User Experience
Mostly presentations from class
    - proposal, progress x2, final
Assignments …
Meetings with your Project Partners!
Assignments!

Part 1: Due next week: **Tuesday** January 19, 6pm

Part 2: Due in 2 weeks: **Tuesday** January 26, 6pm
Programmer Assignment P1

Describe Programming Background
& Introduce Yourself

Instagram Login and Profile
Prog Assign Part 1: Describe Yourself

1. In Writing
   – Give your background – what undergraduate & graduate program you’ve taken/are in
   – List the programming courses you’ve taken
   – List the major programming projects you’ve undertaken (& size)
   – Give the names of all company(s) you’ve worked for as professional/programmer (either as co-op, summer, or full time)
   – I reserve the right check that your capability is at the right level

2. In a video, no more than 2 minutes;
   – Describe the projects and work you listed above
   – Indicate what areas of projects you’d like to work in
Prog Assign Part 1: Describe Yourself

- Upload both on Piazza
  - Put video on YouTube, link in to Piazza

- Purpose
  - for Specialist to get to know you;
  - for us to check that your background is sufficient

- Part I is due Tuesday January 19th, at 6pm
  - However, do it right away, so people can get to know you!
  - Late penalty
Assignment P1, Part 2

- Acquire textbook if iOS
- **Android: Need some basic Java knowledge**
  - Get a Java book
  - Or can use Kotlin
- Download Android Environment
- Walk through initial Android Websites
- **Instagram Login and Profile Page**
- Part 2 due Tuesday January 26th, 6pm; late penalty
  - Assignment posted under Assignments in Quercus and Course: [http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~jayar/ece1778/assignments.html](http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~jayar/ece1778/assignments.html)
Specialist Assignment S1

Introduce Yourself
Explore Apps in Your Field
Specialist Assign Part 1: Describe Yourself

1. In Writing
   - Write 250 words that describe your field to a lay person
   - Give your background – what undergraduate & graduate program you’ve taken/are currently in
   - Describe what the focus of your degree/research is (e.g. ‘my thesis topic is …’, or ‘I’m taking courses in..’)
   - Brief history of work, if any

2. In a Video, no more than 2 minutes;
   - Name your field, give quick description of it
   - Describe other things you might bring to the project – skills, access to a lab for measurements, job experience & what you’re interested in working on
   - A rough idea of what you’re thinking about as an App

(75)
Specialist Assign Part 1: Describe Yourself

- Upload both on Piazza
  - Put video on YouTube, link in to Piazza
- Purpose
  - for Programmers to get to know you;
  - for us to establish your field of expertise

- Part I is due Tuesday January 19\textsuperscript{th}, at 6pm
  - However, do it right away, so people can get to know you!
  - Late penalty
Assignment S1 for Specialists, Part 2

1. Find 5 apps in your field and describe each in 100 words

2. Choose the best of those 5 and do deeper case study:
   – Obtain app, use it, describe it. 1000 words max
   – Mark penalty for too many words

Part 1 due **Tuesday** January 19, 6pm; late penalty
Part 2 due **Tuesday** January 26, 6pm; late penalty
Available on Course Website
[http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~jayar/ece1778/assignments.html](http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~jayar/ece1778/assignments.html)
Hand in on Quercus Assignment Page
# Other Assignments

## Programmers:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>P2</td>
<td>February 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>P3</td>
<td>February 23</td>
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## Specialists:

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<tr>
<th>Date Assigned</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>S2</td>
<td>February 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>S3</td>
<td>February 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>S4</td>
<td>February 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading

- **Assignments:** 20%
  - 3 for Programmers
  - 4 for Specialists

- **Project:** 80%
  - Proposal/Plan (incl presentation) 10%
  - Spiral 2 Presentation 10%
  - Spiral 4 Presentation 10%
  - Final Presentation/Demo 10%
  - Final Report 20%
  - Individual Contribution 15% [included in group report]
  - Peer Review 5%
Each individual student will be asked to provide feedback to other groups on each of three presentations
  – Proposal
  – Spiral 2
  – Spiral 4
You will be assigned to 1 group each period
Asked to provide specific, useful feedback to that group’s presentation
Your feedback/commentary will be graded for quality
Has side effect that you must attend all classes, not just the one that you’ll be presenting in.
A Note to ECE M.Eng Students

- If you are in ECE M.Eng (professional master’s) program
  - Note: only 4 have indicated that they are part time
- ECE does not limit the number of courses you can take.
- However, other ECE grad students are not allowed to take more than 3 courses in a term.
- You should not take this course if plan to take more than three courses per term. It is too much work.
- If you are part-time (presumably with a full-time job?) then you should not take more than this one course.
  - I suggest that all prospective project partners ask each other what their course load is.
Commercialization & Intellectual Property
Commercialization

- If group wishes to commercialize App, feel free to do so

- If not, consider giving away if useful
  - In previous years, people have publicly released source code for others to use/view

- Note: scope of project is *broader* than those apps that are commercializable
  - Apps can be motivated by research, curiosity & not-for-profit goals
Commercialization & Intellectual Property

- University of Toronto Intellectual Property Rules:
  - Work that makes significant use of UofT resources
    - Requires disclosure & extraction of Universities’ rights in exchange for fraction of licensing revenue, or some other deal
    - These rules aren’t well set-up for apps/app store

- However, in my view, nothing in this regular course work makes significant use of UofT resources

- If other UofT people make contributions – supervisors, or UofT employees, then UofT rules will apply

- Law of the land does apply – all inventors have rights
Warning about Intellectual Property

- In my experience, all talk of IP tends to make people think about keeping secrets; that’s bad
  - Most ideas live and grow well in ‘the light’
  - This is true for startups as well
  - See: https://thenextweb.com/entrepreneur/2014/03/25/3-myths-keeping-startup-secret/

- My advice: don’t get too caught up in worrying about IP during this course
  - If you don’t believe this, talk to me afterwards, there is more to say
Lecture 1, Part 2

- Wednesday January 13th from 10am-12

- Will review this lecture quickly, and offer the chance to ask questions about the course structure

- Then, will give class the chance to introduce yourselves to each other, live
  - Come ready to talk about yourself
  - We will have a chance to discuss ideas and the project more
Prepare to Introduce Yourself

1. Give Name
2. Discipline you work in & degree sought
3. Taking Course for Credit – yes or maybe?
4. Part time or full time student?
5. What your thesis topic is (if doing thesis)?
6. If you work, where & what you do?
7. Why you’re taking this course?
8. What kind of phone you’re carrying?
9. Specialist: What idea, if any yet, you have for an app
10. Programmer: What areas are you interested in?