

Data Collection Plan Assignment

Ethical Issues in Software Design: October 2019

The purpose of the data collection phase is to (1) help you to break out of your biased/uninformed view of the STS and the targeted software's purpose and use, and (2) to gather the information you will need to analyze the ethical and social issues for your client. Your presentation of your data collection plan in class also has two purposes: (1) To provide you with a structure and a deadline for getting your data collection organized and (2) to allow the entire class to serve as a team in making your approach better. Oh yes, there is also the issue of giving me something to grade.

You will be turning in 6 primary products, and using 10 minutes or so of your 40 minutes of class time to familiarize the class with these products. Your powerpoint can count as your handout, but if you want people to take specific notes, you should give them paper to do so. You might use both powerpoint and a handout. The 10 minutes is (1) to give an overview of the handouts, (2) to give people enough familiarity with them so they can critique your approach, and (3) to allow you to ask for any specific help (e.g. with access, with approach or design, with analysis, etc.). The remaining time is for us to critique and improve the plan as a larger working group. *You will be in charge of this discussion, though I may assist with suggestions during the process.*

- 1) **A short report on your Informational Interview.**
 - a. **Content:** What did you learn? What is still to know?
 - b. **Discussion:** What do other groups know that could help you? What other questions arise?
- 2) **Your Scope.**
 - a. **Content:** What parts of the STS will you focus on? What is your justification for doing those portions of the STS and ignoring others? What is your justification for doing those ethical concerns and ignoring others? *Make it clear you have considered a wide range of approaches and STS aspects before narrowing down the scope.*
 - b. **Discussion:** What aspect of the STS or ethical concerns should you add/subtract from your list?
- 3) **Your Primary Ethical Questions.**
 - a. **Content:** These should be phrased as *ethical questions or concerns*. What values are *threatened by the computing technology* and what facts do you need to know to begin problem solving about solutions to these? What *value conflicts* are there in the system that the computing technology might exacerbate and can they be integrated? What *oversights* or *bias* are you thinking might have been made in design or deployment and what values would these threaten?
 - b. **Discussion:** Are these the right questions and issues? How can they be improved/narrowed/better phrased?
- 4) **Your Primary Empirical Research Questions.**
 - a. **Content:** These should be phrased as empirical matters that can be answered by some form of research. They should be connected in clear way with the ethical questions. They should also have clear implications for design decisions in the software.
 - b. **Discussion:** Are these the right questions given the ethical concerns? Can they be more sharply focused? Are there design implications?
- 5) **Two to three approaches to data collection to answer your questions.**
 - a. **Content:** These should be reasonably well specified. Who or what will you watch or ask questions of? What will the questions be? Where will you do it? How will you do informed consent? How will you analyze the data?
 - b. **Discussion:** Do they fit the empirical questions? What is unclear about the data collection strategies? Can it be done within the time/resource limits?
- 6) **A Gantt chart** of your tasks, including deadlines, reaching until your final presentation.

Your powerpoint or handouts will need to be detailed. Page limits are unimportant here (though page numbers are). Clarity in a short and efficient presentation and consultation with the class is paramount. Have a plan for what you are going to say, a plan for how you will guide the discussion, and a list of questions you want to ask the class about your approach. Take notes – it is not just a presentation, it is a chance to improve your product.

Finally, after your presentation, you will want to get together and debrief. If you have additional questions, you can send them to me in email or we can make an appointment to talk about them.

Data Collection Plan Evaluation Sheet

	Poor		Good		Excellent
Scope					
The scope is appropriate to the time and resources available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The scope focuses on the most important issues for the client	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A compelling argument is provided for the selection of issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Questions & Methods					
Qs are appropriate to the scope and ethical or empirical in nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The methods chosen are appropriate for the needed information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The methods chosen triangulate well on needed information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The methods are well-specified enough to allow useful feedback.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The methods are feasible and fit to time and resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation Issues					
The handout/powerpoint of the methods is clear and professional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Explanation of the handout is clear and concise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solicitation of and reaction to comments and criticism is professional.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics and Professionalism					
The plan is thoughtful about ethical issues of access and confidentiality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The plan is thoughtful about minimizing intrusion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments for Improvement:					