Propose a vacation student project for Summer 2019

Deadline for making your proposal(s): 17:00 Friday 22 March 2019. This is a hard deadline.

This form is for one project proposal, so to propose multiple projects please submit a separate form for each project. Any queries, do ask - Toby.

Project supervisor email *

Sarah.clinch@manchester.ac.uk

Title of the project *

Automated consent decisions

Source of funding *

- School funding requested
- You have your own funding (e.g. research grant)

Objective of the project *

To explore the potential automated consent decision-making

Number of students requested (justify if > 1) *

1

Start date, end date, total duration (weeks) *

10 June, 30 Aug, 12 (weeks)
The benefit to the School *

Contributes to existing research activities. Engages students in research.

The benefit to the student *

Experience working in the context of an existing codebase and multisite research project. Develop coding/prototyping skills.

Skills needed by the student. *

Python programming, web development (HTML/CSS/Javascript); good verbal and written communication skills. Either (i) an interest in AI and recommender systems, or (ii) an interested in prototyping, HCI and user engagement.

Details of the work that the student would do *

In the PACTMAN project we have begun to explore the idea of reframing consent as a process of delegation - turning the question from "do I agree with these Terms and Conditions" to "who do I trust to make this decision on my behalf". Early research showed that the public might be receptive to this reframing and considered potential delegates to be experts, friends, family members or even AI ‘bots’. To explore this further we have created the "consentier" - a web plug-in that allows users visiting a web site that requires users to click "I Agree" to opt to delegate the decision making process.

The student would explore how consentier could be extended to automate delegation decisions, enabling users to delegate to a process that learns their likely consent preferences. This learning could be based on their past history, a set of questions or profile options or clustering across similar user groups. The internship could appeal to students interested in AI and recommender systems as well as those wanting to take a more HCI focused project that explored issues of explainable-AI in the context of consent. In this latter case it would be possible to conduct lab studies based on wizard-of-oz prototypes to gauge user reactions to particular consent recommendations.
Infrastructure requirements and any required staff support other than the project supervisor *

Access to PACTMAN software (will be provided)

Supervision arrangements throughout the duration of the project (named staff and dates covering the entire duration) *

Sarah Clinch: 10 June - 30 Aug

Location of the project work (building/room) NB projects must be on-campus *

Kilburn, probably LF1/7

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