# BSc FINAL YEAR THESIS PROJECTS Proposed by Simon Winberg Radar Remote Sensing Group 2015

# Topics on the web at:

http://www.rrsg.ee.uct.ac.za/members/swinberg/Proposals

(The web version includes a convenient topic listing and hyperlinks.) Images on the top right indicate the theme

#### **List of Topics**

BSC FINAL YEAR THESIS PROJECTS	1
CATEGORY: SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT & BIG DATA	3
SW-1 (R)	3
DSSAF WEB INTERFACE AND STREAMING CLIENT	3
SW-2 (R)	5
TUTOR ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING APP (TOPA)	5
SW-3	7
PTNS – Portable Trading Network System	7
CATEGORY: EMBEDDED SYSTEMS, FPGA, SIGNAL PROCESSING	8
SW-4	8
FERS SIMULATOR GUI UPGRADE	8
SW-5	9
ETHERNET INTERCONNECT ABSTRACTION BETWEEN RASPBERRY PI AND FPGA COPROCESSOR (CODENAME EIARF)	9
SW-6	10
FPGA DATA BLASTER KIT (codename Blaster)	10
SW-7	11
BIRD CALL HEURISTIC-BASED IDENTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM (B-CHIRP)	11
CATEGORY: IMAGE PROCESSING	12
SW-8	12
FLORA – GPU Acceleration of pattern matching algorithms	12
SW-9 (R)	13
COUNTING SHEEP AND CROP HEALTH IDENTIFICATION USING IMAGE PROCESSING AND OBJECT DETECTION	13
SW-10	14
SMART-PHONE INDOOR NAVIGATION SYSTEM USING EDGE DETECTION	14
CATEGORY: MECHATRONICS	15
SW-11	15
LURCCI – Level-floor Undercover Robot Crawler Controlled by Internet (Phase 1)	15
SW-12	16
MTG - Mobile Tune Grip	16
CATEGORY: HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING & NETWORKING	17
LEGACY TOPICS – ASK IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION	17
LEGACY TOPICS – ASK IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION SW-L1	17 17
LEGACY TOPICS – ASK IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION	<b>17</b> <b>17</b> 17

Alert Me App Coding Framework	18
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# **CATEGORY: SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT & BIG DATA**

ID:	SW-1 (R) [project reserved]	WEB Web Development	CODE
TITLE:	<b>DSSAF web interface and streaming client</b> (a Big Data theme project)		
DESCRIPTION:	This project concerns development that co Signal Storage and Access Framework (DS) to recorded radar data and experiment log eventually support both intranet and inter for an initial prototype it can all work in a Figure 1: Overview of the large-scale vie The RRSG has multiple on-going projects in and other types of digitized signal data. Al experiments constitute many terabytes of much of this data we need to keep and ma essential for understanding application co laboratory-based testing and optimizing. This project concerns development that co Storage and Access Framework (RDSAF) ai recorded radar data and experiment logs. around being done in collaboration with a this project is designed so that if SW-1 doo The RRSG has multiple on-going projects in data. Our field experiments generally provi valuable recorded data, essential for under complexities and useful for laboratory-base	ontributes to the GAF) aimed to facilitate data sharing private LAN.	Digital cilitate access planned to options, but on of radar Id ed data, and s it is seful for Radar Data access to ct is designed on project, is project on of radar tes of ation ptimizing. ng up the searching on TCD based

	server system. A clear set of API commands needs to be design for this		
	service and planned to be scalable / extendable. An added extra, if time		
	permits is to incorporate a website front-end (i.e. it could use server		
	scripts to call API functions) to make it easier to access the stored data.		
	Most of our existing datasets are loosely organized (e.g., a simple file		
	system, according to date) and it takes time to find and access this		
	data. If SW-1 is taken, then the design of accessing this data should be		
	done collaboratively; alternatively (or as a backup policy) this project		
	can simply work according to file directory listings. The RDSAF is		
	consequently an experiment attempt to improve access to this data.		
	This project is designed around being integrated with SW-2, the RFSAF		
	web client and streaming client API. However, this project is designed		
	so that effective work can be done on it even if SW-2 is not allocated.		
DELIVERABLES:	Database set up with a selection of radar data and information related to this, with C code for showing how to search and access data. (Possible extra: Web-based GUI for easier access).		
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Programming, some signal processing knowledge advantageous		
EXTRA INFORMATION:	<mark>Project Reserved</mark> – Mr. Oliver Powell		
AREA:	Software development, Programming, Databases		

ID:	SW-2 (R) [project reserved]	Social Net	
TITLE:	<b>Tutor Organization and Planning App (TOPA)</b> A small-scale social networking (SSN) theme		
DESCRIPTION:	Tutor Organization and Planning App (TOPA)         A small-scale social networking (SSN) theme         The Tutor Organization and Planning App is intended as a facility to get tutoring teams more organized, to help tutors get access to tutorial info (e.g., memos students doing the prac can't access) and useful course material. The system also aims to incorporate a social networking dimension, allowing tutors to be better aware of other tutors and to share tutoring expertise and resources. There should be support for formal (course-based) Tutor Teams as well as Tutor         Buddies (i.e. like friend connections on Facebook). There are different access levels; only tutors in a tutor team get access to memos for the particular course they are signed up to. Generally, anyone can access the course material, even tutors in different teams (but they would need to search for this or be sent an invite). For this project the course information could just be a URL to the course website (later additions could be access to a shared folder). Support and security for memos need to be in place. Some kind of instant messaging would be desired, and means to send Team Invites and Tutor Buddy invites. Also a Lecturer user type is needed, which could just be the same as a Tutor plus permission to create a Tutor Team and to add memos.         If the 'small social networking' functioning adequately the application can be expanded to provide for facilities such as adding a Chief Tutor user type that is able to create subgroups and to do tutor attendance lists. A "Call Tutor" function could be added to tell a tutor he/she is late for the prac, or "Request Stand-in" to broadcast a message, perhaps to the whole tutor team or to all tutors in the network to indicate that a stand-in tutor is needed (e.g. call on a tutor assigned to another course who knows the material to help out).		
DELIVERABLES:	Operational TOPA application, short user manual helpin how to set up and use the system. Testing in a selection environment (e.g., in a prac, in a tutorial, in marking ses	g to explain of tutoring sion).	
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Networking & Programming (Your choice, e.g. Python, J	ava or C++)	
EXTRA INFORMATION:	Project Reserved – Ms. Subha Singh Can be done as a PC-based system if it is taking too long to get things working on the mobile device. Various desirable functions (if time permits, otherwise this is just a placeholder for ideas): marking, collaborating with other tutors, call tutor, schedule of who is tutoring what lab/tut when, view tutoring		

	timetable and venues, confirm availability, request replacement tutor, running late, attendance record for logging students present in pracs, log of student tasks completed, expertise areas (which tutor has volunteered to focus on what difficult aspect of the tutorial), for recording test results, view sample solution. Alert lecturer: of aspect students are struggling with, of poor attendance, of plagiarism, of disturbances, of software/lab problems, of error in question / in sample solution. Other tutor admin things: log tutoring tasks, time spent on tasks, generate timesheet. Of course if you think of more items you can add that in; I'm not expecting all the myriad set of functions to be implemented, that is part of the requirements analysis and prioritization process – ideally the requirements should be gathered in a formal and thorough manner, interviewing lecturers and students, proposing your initial plans, asking for their opinions of your ideas and suggestions for further features.
AREA:	Network Software

ID:	SW-3	Networking
TITLE:	PTNS – Portable Trading Network System	m
	This project is designed around supporting outdoor market markets, tradeshows and other trade contexts in which a ne is desired but the infrastructure is not necessarily in place. planned primarily around providing very low cost and term or wired networking between Point-Of-Sale (POS) termina Management (IM) terminals, and the Store Manager (SM) terminal used for monitoring transactions and sales volum	ts, street etworked system The system is porary wireless als, Inventory or proprietor's es.
DESCRIPTION:	This system is intended to account for rural African condit there may be unreliable (if any) 3G or other high-speed ne available, or where the electricity supply is unreliable that of sales if mains-powered equipment is needed.	tions where etworks could cause loss
	A proposed solution, the point of this project, is to establish effective principles to quickly replicate or more an ad-hoc wireless network (or one using smartphone act as a router) or ad-hoc wired network (or using a PC as a router) from one place to another quickly. The emphasis needs to be on <u>low-cost and quick</u> solutions designed around a portable network (getting the same network moved or set up quickly in a different location).	
	This project is a combination of a networking and Android App development project. Thorough design is needed for software and networking aspects.	d / Smartphone both the
	An Android applications needs to be prototyped to respect 1) POS functionality, 2) Inventory Management (updating sales made, stock added), and 3) Store Manager view (cou database queries or if time permits a GUI app to generate to	tively provide: g a database for Ild just be reports).
	Researching the potential performance of the proposed network needs to be done, including modelling of the network conditions and computing network performance characteristics.	
DELIVERABLES:	High-level Design of the PTNS; Software Design of the app scope for the trial application is small scale); Prototype im of the POS, IM, and SM applications; network modelling & performance when scaled up.	blications (note nplementations & estimated
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Software Design, Programming, Networking	
EXTRA INFORMATION:		
AREA:	Software / Networks	

# **CATEGORY: EMBEDDED SYSTEMS, FPGA, SIGNAL PROCESSING**

ID:	SW-4		
TITLE:	FERS Simulator GUI Upgrade (a music theme project)		
DESCRIPTION:	The Flexible Extensible Radar Simulator (FERS) was developed as a PhD project in the RRSG group. This is a program and customizable coding framework that is useful both as a learning tool, for new users to the field of radar to improve their understanding of how radar and radar signals work, as well as a useful system for modelling experimental scenarios to gain better insight into the expected operation of a system, or to develop a better experiment design before going out into the field to do the experiment. The application is open-source, and available at http://sourceforge.net/projects/fers/. Currently, FERS is a console-based application in which a configuration file is edited in a text editor in order to describe the model that is going to be simulated. This project involves designing a GUI for FERS and integrating this will the current code implementation, and hopefully releasing it back to the sourceforce repository. This project does not require a thorough understanding of radar and signal theory, but this would clearly be beneficual; these factors can also be learned 'on the job' while working on the project. <u>Acknowledgement:</u> FERS was originally developed by Dr. Marc Brooker.		
DELIVERABLES:	Prototyped RMB device. Demonstrate sending and receiving of morsecode signals. Report on distance tests (part of thesis).		
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Programming / prior GUI experience desirable but not essential		
EXTRA INFORMATION:	Working on this project will get you well connected with the RRSG team and support will be available both from a variety of individuals, in particular Dr. Craig Tong will be available to provide additional guidelines and suggestions for GUI refinement from the perspective of an experienced user.		
AREA:	Software Development		

ID:	SW-5	Code	
TITLE:	Ethernet Interconnect Abstraction between Raspberry Pi and FPGA Coprocessor (codename EIARF)		
	This project involves connecting a Raspberry Pi (RPi) that has Nexys3 (Spartan 6 FPGA) by means of Ethernet. The idea is to Ethernet frames over a 100 Mbit/s connection to provide the eq speed peripheral bus between the RPi and the Nexys3. The project implementation of a simple co-processing application in order to t of this connection. A model of the connection and software all provided in figure 2 below.	an ARM CPU to a make use of raw uivalent of a high- ct also involves the est the capabilities ostraction layers is	
DESCRIPTION:	Raspberry Pi User Application Library Functions Connection Abstraction	FPGA User Co- processor FIFO Queues Connection Abstraction	
	Figure 1: The Raspberry Pi platform The connection itself must be implemented as an abstraction potential application is concerned, the RPi side must be able to r functions that are similar to file IO operations. The FPGA side n queues of incoming and outgoing data. The Ethernet layer m hidden to both sides of applications using this framework. The con irrelevant, as it is application-specific.	ration of n. As far as any nake use of library nust look like FIFO ust be completely ntent of the data is	
	The HDL code (FPGA-side), as well as the C/C++ code (RPi side) around portability to larger systems, with more powerful FPGAs, f higher-end ARM processors. This project will be jointly supervised by John-Philip Taylor and Sim	must be designed faster Ethernet and non Winberg.	
DELIVERABLES:	The project is expected to deliver a working and scalable general-purpose Ethernet connection, as described above. Full documentation, including a user manual, for anybody who wants to make use of the connection code, must also be delivered.		
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Embedded Linux development; FPGA HDL Programming.		
EXTRA INFORMATION:	http://www.raspberrypi.org/ : Information about the ARM board http://www.digilentinc.com/Products/Detail.cfm?NavPath=2,400, : the Nexys3 product description	789&Prod=NEXYS3	
AREA:	Embedded Computer Engineering, Digital Systems and Com Abstraction.	munication Layer	

ID:	SW-6
TITLE:	FPGA Data Blaster Kit (codename Blaster)
DESCRIPTION:	If you're a high-speed fundi and you're fascinated by maximizing computer performance and adventurous enough do things like overclocking CPUs to boost their performance, then this is probably a project for you! This is an FPGA based project which involves getting data in to and out of the FPGA at the fastest possible rate. The data input can be done in various ways (you need only implement one method), the preference being to use one of our high-speed ADC cards (can sample over 100MSps) to stream in the data from the ADC, storing it briefly into a buffer on the FPGA board, do minimal packetizing and push the data out to a multicore PC over a directly linked Ethernet cable. The PC receiving the data has a high speed Ethernet port and saves the data into memory and optionally to hard-drive (this save to drive feature can be activated/deactivated by the user depending on processing needs). If during the project the ADC is found to be too complicated to use, then a digital data source (e.g. embedded platform sending data bits to a programmable IO port) can be substituted for the ADC. FPGA Blaster Protocol Card Blaster Kit The comms does not need to use standard Ethernet protocols; instead the Ethernet card can just be used as a digital bit-stream acquisition source, i.e. override all the protocol layers and just grabbing input from the card's RX ports directly (existing Ethernet drivers can be repurposed for this or use of WireShark). This project requires a FPGA implementation that receives and sends data, as well as a small PC-based application that receives the data (the PC program can be very bare-bones, just dumps data to file or confirms that e.g. a sequence counting 0-1000 back to 0 is being received).
DELIVERABLES:	The project is expected to deliver a working Data Baster Kit that for the FPGA platform used. Comprehensive documentation and tutorial on how to configure and setup the system. Performance testing methods and record of results you achieved.
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Embedded Linux development; FPGA HDL Programming.
EXTRA INFORMATION:	
AREA:	Digital Systems and Communication Layer Abstraction.

ID:	SW-7	occord and a second and a secon	
	Bird Call Heuristic-based Ider	ntification and	
TITLE:	<b>Recognition Program (B-CHIRP)</b> An outdoor theme project		
DESCRIPTION:	This project is aimed to be an initial pat the prospect of developing a smartphon automatically identify a bird based on re assist a human in identifying the bird by playing back recordings of bird sounds. This project will mainly focus on algorit testing, collecting a variety of bird song different volumes and distortions, and t filters and audio pattern matching meth learning / neural networks to attempt to type of bird based on the sounds it make At this stage, a sophisticated user interf software structure is not required, the me experiment with algorithms and establiss later be refined. Decent module interface code are desired to make the effort usable	hfinder to experiment with e app that could either ecording its song, or to y providing cues and thm development and (s (of local birds) at hen experimenting with ods, or possibly machine autonomously decide a es. ace and comprehensive hain purpose is to sh prototype code that can ces and comments in the ole in a future application.	
<b>DELIVERABLES:</b>	Application running on PC (or on mobile platform/smartphone)		
SKILLS/REQUIREME	Your choice of language; e.g. Matlab, Julia, Octave, PC-based Java		
NTS:	program, or Java Mobile development using Android SDK.		
EXTRA	Some existing applications that help bir	ders identify birds:	
INFORMATION:	http://www.whatbird.com/		
	http://appcrawlr.com/android/merlin-bi	rd-id-by-cornell-lab	
AREA:	Signal processing (optional: Embedded	Mobile app development)	

# **CATEGORY: IMAGE PROCESSING**

ID:	SW-8	Outdoors
TITLE:	FLORA – GPU Acceleration of pattern algorithms (an outdoors & acceleration theme project)	n matching
DESCRIPTION:	<ul> <li>This project relates to the Fynbos Leaf-based C Recognition Application (FLORA), which is a system that aims to automatically recognize a v of fynbos plans based on leaf photographs. The project proposed relates to a relatively small, b critical, component of the FLORA system.</li> <li>FLORA is currently written in mostly Python c with some C modules for speed optimization.</li> <li>This project involves two things, where point 1 higher priority and point 2 lower priority if tim permits:</li> <li>1. Covert existing image processing operat processing stages of edge detection, bina into GPU (e.g. CUDA or OpenCV/Open integrate with the existing FLORA codir</li> <li>2. Implement leaf characterization heuristic generation of leaf characteristic code sec these are like fingerprints codes for bran particular bush which are very similar ar same species.</li> <li>The scope of this project is flexible according to instance the implementation can be tested with a of samples which can be easily found around ca is most suited for a student with strong program willing to spend a bit of time in the outdoors loo photographing plant specimens. A certain amou will be needed to become familiar with commor processing techniques needed for pattern matchin</li> </ul>	Optical variety ut $Geelmagriet a$ type of fynbos $e^{eelmagriet a}$ type of fynbos $e^{elmagriet a}$ type
DELIVERABLES:	Neat code modules that are / can easily be incorporated into the FLORA code framework. Documentation for the code.	
SKILLS/REQUIREMEN	TS: Strong Programming Ability (should know som how to program GPUs on the job)	e Python; you can learn
EXTRA INFORMATION	Paper providing more detail about the FLORA http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/NCVPRIPG.2013.67	application: <u>76220</u>
AREA:	Image Processing, GPU-based application acceleration	

ID:	SW-9 (R) [project reserved]		
TITLE:	<b>Counting Sheep and Crop Health Identification</b> <b>Using Image Processing and Object Detection</b> (an image processing and object detection themed project)		
DESCRIPTION:	<ul> <li>This project uses automated image processing and sensory data to:</li> <li>Count the number of sheep in an image (this could be extended, depending of time constraints, to use machine learning/object detection, to count any specific type of animal in the image).</li> <li>Identify and differentiate the health statuses of different types of crops/weeds.</li> <li>Being able to perform automated counting accurately is an active field of research which holds promise in the development of many areas. One such application relates to agriculture. Many farmers, for example, have problems keeping track of the numbers of various types of cattle. The cattle numbers are influenced by things such as the rate of births and deaths (by natural means, sickness or predators). The health status of crops is also a concern for farmers. Crops can suffer from disease and predation throughout the year and the loss of crop yield could be detrimental not only to the farmer but to the economy that depends on the revenue generated from to a fruitful harvest. This project aims to develop a computer-based means to help farmers with these issues.</li> <li>The general idea behind this project is that a UAV can capture sensory data by flying over the terrain of a farm, taking hundreds or thousands of images and stitching these together to form a map. Image processing techniques and object detection will then be applied to the areas of the map containing sections of interest (i.e. portions of the map containing cattle and crops) to count the number of sheep in the image.</li> </ul>		
DELIVERABLES:	Application running on a PC; or code modules that can be incorporated with a UAV. Documentation for the code.		
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Programming, image processing, object detection		
EXTRA INFORMATION:	Project Reserved – Marchello Meiring		
AREA:	Image processing, object detection, programming.		

ID:	SW-10	
TITLE:	Smart-phone indoor navigation system using edge detection (a signal processing theme)	
DESCRIPTION:	<ul> <li>The inability to use GPS in indoor environments, poses a navigation problem for users of such environments. Two common examples are; shoppers in a shopping mall, and people in a university campus. Commonly handheld devices cannot utilise GPS for localisation and navigation.</li> <li>The challenge at hand is to design and build a system that utilises edge detection to help a user navigate through a built environment using their smart phone.</li> <li>The system should be in form of client-server architecture with the client being a smart phone, and the server being the system storing the main database.</li> </ul>	
DELIVERABLES:	A client-server prototype to establish feasibility of concept	
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Digital Signal processing, Networking, Systems design, Programming	
EXTRA INFORMATION:	Can be done as a PC-based program. Preferably will use android smart-phone with a duo-core or better so as to make it mobile. An attempt was made on this last year, but I have a much approach on how it could be done better and quite differently to previously.	
AREA:	Digital Signal Processing	

# **CATEGORY: MECHATRONICS**

ID:	SW-11	Mechatronics	
TITLE:	LURCCI – Level-floor Undercover Robot Crawler Controlled by Internet (phase 1)		
DESCRIPTION:	E: Controlled by Internet (phase 1) The plan for the LURCCI project is to develop a robot craw is controlled remotely via internet, intended for moving aro indoors on even floors. The LURCCI robot can be built from it-yourself robotics kit, which includes the chassis, and driv mechanism for moving and steering the robot – together thi provides a platform on which further functionality is built. Of features would be needed to make the robot more useful. The project is design around multiple phases, each phase could be by a different student working in parallel or in subsequent y RS232 tether RS232 tether This is the first time this project is being offered, and consequent 1 and 2 are the requirements for this edition of the project. Howe full set of phases for the robot can be sent to you on request. Phase 1: Assembling the robot kit, getting the platform together and tes Control movement of platform via a RS2332 tether. Testing speed,		
	later projects to enable remote control. A webcam for the first pr COTS CCD camera kit can be used (ideally this camera should microcontroller running on the robot, but due to time constrains be done by a future student working taking the project further).	rototype or a small be hooked up to a this may need to	
DELIVERABLES:	Prototyped LURCII able to move around via manual PC co	ntrol	
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Mechatronics, programming		
EXTRA INFORMATION:			
AREA:	Mechatronics		

ID:	SW-12	
TITLE:	MTG - Mobile Tune Grip (a music theme project)	
DESCRIPTION:	Are you interested in making music? You sometimes think of good beats and want to tap it out? You'd like to record these tune but would like something more than a table top to test things on. But you also want something that's more natural-feeling and ergonomic compared to the flat slate of a cellphone or tablet? If this is something you'd like then maybe you'd consider taking this project on as a DIY solution for this idea. The objective of the <i>Mobile Tune Grip</i> is to develop a custom music input pad (the 'gripper'), on which you can play and record tunes. You can then hook it up to a computer to download and play back the tunes. The diagram below gives a notion of what is involved. You don't need to know how to play a musical instrument or how to read musical; but this project might be an opportunity for you to understand more about how music is structured and composed. Speaker / earphones	
DELIVERABLES:	The gripper and electronics needed to produce and capture music. Optional extra: integration with PC to download recorded tunes.	
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Electronics, microcontroller programming, C programming	
EXTRA INFORMATION:		
AREA:	Electronics, Embedded systems	

# CATEGORY: HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING & NETWORKING

None offered due to limitations on number of project that can be listed.

## Legacy topics - ask if you want more information

ID:	SW-L1	
TITLE:	RWTM - Rhino Wireless Transceiver Module (a Reconfigurable Computing theme project)Image: Computing theme projectRadio / Radar	
DESCRIPTION:	The Rhino project is a reconfigurable computing platform designed for Software Defined Radio (SDR) applications. The Rhino platform was built at UCT by the SDRG research group (see the <u>www.rhinoplatform.org</u> Rhino site for details). The objective of the RWTM system is to develop a wireless transceiver module for the Rhino, a low-power FM transmitter/ receiver that can send and received bytes of data. A speed such as 16KBps, using a simple whip antenna, may be adequate to prove the concept. It is hoped that the HDL and other code developed as a results of this project will contribute support resources and examples for the Rhino support kit.	
DELIVERABLES:	Prototyped antenna and analogue front-end (which connects to an A2D sampling module), VHDL/Verilog code for the front-end processing and Wireless communications protocol handling.	
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Embedded systems; HDL coding; digital single processing; a reasonable understanding of signals and RF transmissions (although much of the RF skills you can pick up as part of doing this project)	
EXTRA INFORMATION:		
AREA:	Digital systems; Electronics	

ID:	SW-L2	
TITLE:	Alert Me App Coding Framework (an Android App theme project)	
DESCRIPTION:	A code framework for use with Android that can be customized for various application purposes, I'm suggesting it is tested as a kind of imminent load shedding alert. Client/server system. Client is Android application code, server is PC-based code that can send data via a socket to the client. The client side needs suitable audio and visual displays to show alerts. Different levels of alerts: low priority (maybe no sound or single buzz) to high priority (loud longer alarm, needs to be acknowledged, switches off only after e.g. a minute if not acknowledged).	
DELIVERABLES:	API user-guide. Example / starting point programs. Performance testing. Prototyped application using the API.	
SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS:	Programming. (Your choice, e.g. Python, Java or C++).	
EXTRA INFORMATION:		
AREA:	Mobile app programming / telecoms / software devel	opment