

# Assignment 1 - Mentor Interview

Due: Thursday, February 16th  
6.S194 Spring 2017

As part of getting acclimated to your project, you will interview your mentor. After your interview, you should be able to give detailed answers to these four questions:

1. **What are the project's goals?** How does the project define success? If the project is wildly successful, what would that look like? Get the big picture of what your project is about.
2. **What is the current state of the project?** Once you've identified the project's goals, take an honest look at the project's current state. What's broken, missing, incomplete, unmaintained? Think about non-technical aspects of the project as well. Does the project have good documentation? Can users get started quickly? Do users even know about the project?
3. **Who are the users?** In future assignments, you will conduct *primary market research* -- that is, you will talk to actual users. Ask your mentor who they think the users are, both in aggregate ("thousands of students at major universities") and in specific (names and e-mail addresses of people you can contact). Your project may have multiple groups of users. Then, after asking your mentor, think about who *you* think the users are.
4. **What are the current dynamics of the project?** While some projects are starting from a completely clean slate, most have at least some existing development community. Who is maintaining the software? Who supports users? How do pull requests get merged? Do they have a backlog of bugs and feature requests, and who maintains it? This is not an exhaustive list of questions to ask. Your goal is to understand who you will work with to get your work accepted into the project.

You won't be able to define your project's market(s) without talking to actual users first, but your mentor can provide broad guidance that will help you decide what questions to ask during your primary market research. Read the list of categories on pages 34-35 of *Disciplined Entrepreneurship* and **write out what you know for each category for at least one market.**

Submit your responses to the four questions and your market details as a Google doc in the folder that has been created for and shared with you. This assignment is **due Thursday, February 16th.**

You may (but are not required to) interview your mentor together as a group, but your writeup should be done independently.