**Term Project**

**Due Date:** Friday, December 13  
**Electronic version:** Due at 8 am == [johann@cs.brandeis.edu](mailto:johann@cs.brandeis.edu)  
**Hard Copy:** Due at the beginning of class.

- You can do the Term Project in pairs.
- You must send to Johann a one-page description of your term project idea no later than Monday, November 7, 12 noon.
- For your term project you will analyze some of the transcripts we have collected in class. Your analysis should focus on some aspect of joint sensemaking. There are two kinds of analysis you can do: ethnographic or quantitative. In either case, you want to make sure you examine several different transcripts of collaboration.
- Examples of interesting topics are:
  - A taxonomy of breakdowns and their causes, and a discussion of what these breakdowns tell us about joint sensemaking.
  - A comparison of the different organization methods that emerge within groups and their effect on joint sensemaking.
  - The effect of interruptions on joint sensemaking.
  - Develop a metric for measuring whether a team is loosely or tightly coupled.
  - The relation of representational work to distribution of sense.
  - A discourse analysis that …
- At the end of the semester you will turn in a 4000-word paper that describes your project. You may want to do some additional reading to fill out the background literature for your project.
- You paper should include the following sections.
  - Introduction
  - Background. Discussion of related work.
  - Analysis, solution, model
    - Include segments of the transcripts to illustrate your points
  - Discussion
  - Concluding Remarks
  - References
    - Make sure they are complete references.
Preparation for Next Lecture

1. Here are some definitions of sensemaking:
   a. “placing stimuli into some kind of framework” enabling participants to “comprehend, understand, explain, attribute, extrapolate, and predict”
   b. “procurement, production, synthesis, manipulation, and diffusion of information in such a way as to give meaning, purpose, and direction to the organization.”
   c. “thinking process that uses retrospective accounts to explain surprises”
   d. “activity of placing stimuli into frameworks is most visible when predictions break down, which suggests that sensemaking is partially under the control of expectations”
   e. “reciprocal interaction of information seeking, meaning, ascription, and action”
   f. “a process in which individuals develop cognitive maps of their environment”

2. What is the difference between your individual sense of the problem-solving session and the collective sense?

3. Were there occasions where the sense of the situation was different for each member of the team? Was it ever the same?

4. How would you measure the quality of sense? For individuals? For the team?

5. How did the distribution of sense effect the performance of the team?

6. What are the properties of joint sense making? How would you measure them?