

# NCSS DAILY

JANUARY 2011: EDITION 1.6 BROUGHT TO YOU BY  **freelancer!**

## Day 8: wrapping up the weekend

The last day of the weekend saw students beginning to feel the sleep they've been missing all week. It was looking a bit grim for morning games with only a couple of people showing up, but this was soon remedied with over a dozen students joining in for zabutsa - where do they get their energy?!

Lectures and tutorials continued for both groups, but the overall vibe of Sunday was a bit more relaxed and calm - because it is about to get really busy again!

### PYTHON GROUP

The social networks of the Python group are coming together excellently - both in the front-end and the back-end! Most groups have logos and colour schemes happening as well as lots of functions and features being integrated.

### EMBEDDED GROUP

The embedded groups are speeding along with their rescue missions, complete with princesses and overlords. Students are quickly achieving their goals and sorting out quirks before the demo and later competition late Monday!



## Night before all-nighter

In order to allow students to (theoretically) get some rest before the epic all-nighter of Monday night, Sunday evening's activities were more laidback than previous nights.

Students formed teams and rallied together to act out some basic sorting algorithms as a group, with some entertaining results! The scoring system was also fairly entertaining.

Next, students were set with the task of acting out what NCSS means to them - and we saw everything from pythons to mafia to James Curran to rice, at increasingly faster speeds!

Zombies were let loose among the students, so it will be interesting to find out just how well everyone slept after that. In general it was an early night for most - because tomorrow is the all-nighter!



**T-44 HOURS AND COUNTING** Group 1 poses in front of their custom countdown, getting ready to launch their file-sharing social network *CliqueShare*.



**ROOMBAI RUMBLE** The robots get ready to rumble on Monday afternoon, now decked out with feathers, pipe-cleaners, masking tape and even names!



**SORT COMPLETE!** During the evening simulation activities, Group 5 shows clearly that the bubble sort algorithm has never been quite this fun!



#NCSS

**flowblok**

@Spik3balloon @JJGatenby  
Not I, sir! I'm now Callan.  
#ncss #identitycrisis

**Spik3balloon**

@JJGatenby @flowblok Would  
the real @JJGatenby please  
stand up? #ncss #identitycrisis

**Iemnisca**

Me: "5 minutes until we go to  
lunch." Student: "Do we have  
to go to lunch?" #Embedded  
#NCSS students are learning  
the Way of the Coder. :)

**damonreece**

@StumpyTheRoomba stares  
into your soul and he doesn't  
like what he's seeing. #ncss

**AlfieTheRoomba**

I accidentally (destroyed?) the  
whole track! D: #ncss

**EdmundTse**

Students learning how to use  
Subversion to keep track of  
collaboratively edited code  
#ncss #embedded

**LadyCaffeine**

Brave roombai, I have prepared  
a map for you! [http://  
i.imgur.com/PvrwN.jpg](http://i.imgur.com/PvrwN.jpg) #ncss

**AlfieTheRoomba**

I will rescue the princess and  
she will be my squishy #ncss

**damonreece**

My hat now has a Twitter feed:  
@DamonReecesHat #ncss

**jgatenby**

One more sleep until the  
#ncss all-nighter! Make sure  
you catch up on sleep tonight!

**dominickng**

32-player Mafia game going at  
#ncss. Accusations flying  
everywhere.

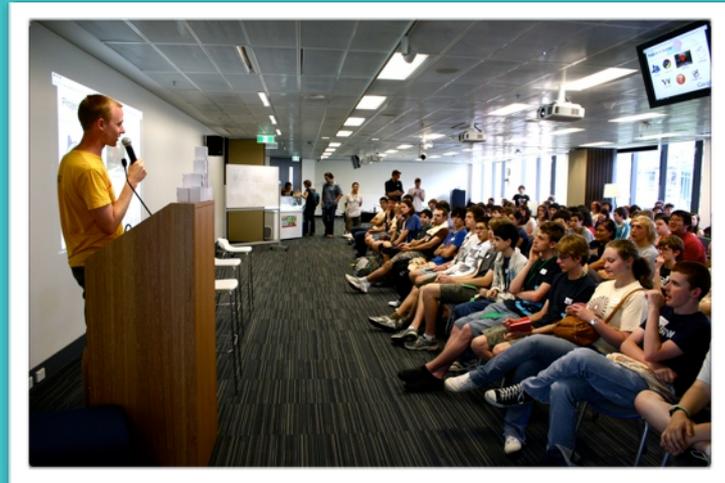
# VISITING GOOGLE



\* Mark and Harrison enjoy some  
icecream while waiting for the Google  
presentations to start



Students and tutors enjoy the view  
from the Google balcony, led on their  
tour by Jim



## NCSS students visit Google

Students trekked through Darling Harbour to reach the Sydney HQ of Google, located on the wharfs near Star City casino. Many groups were excited by the large Google sign in the foyer and stopped to take pictures there.

Once upstairs, students were greeted with ice-cream and free stationery before being seated in an array of coloured chairs as speakers Sam, Matt and Jim presented brief talks. Sam introduced students to Google and talked about the particular role of the

Sydney HQ, while Matt described his career path and how it differed from what might have been assumed typical. Jim talked about computing as an amazing industry and encouraged students to make the most of the opportunities they were given.

Next, small groups were toured around different parts of the Google building, through the sea, on the beach and in the jungle - and also into the company-provided games room, complete with billiard scoring laptop! The high-profile and prestige of Google as well as the youthful atmosphere appealed to many students and made for a cool conclusion to the varied and excellent site visits.

# A PROGRAMMER'S WEEK



**FROM THE EDITORS**  
**Re: Zombie infestation**  
Beware of zombies! We saw firsthand the paranoia that has taken over Women's College. It would seem that a certain devious group of students is intent on victory - yes, we are watching you!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Jarrod William Small  
**Age:** 16  
**School:** Heathcote High (NSW)

**What do you do?**  
Going into Year 12 this year - my subjects are English, maths, business studies, IPT and physics. I really like theoretical physics!

**Why NCSS?**  
I've liked computing for a while but last year really got into it, teaching myself Python and borrowing books and material from my IPT teacher - who also encouraged me to attend NCSS.

**Every language?**  
I'd really like to learn as much as possible about every syntax and language. James has done a lot of great work on languages.

**Future plans?**  
I definitely want to go to uni and do some form of IT, probably computer science. I'm also interested in the field of user-experience (UE), making software more friendly and easy to use.

**Atlassian interview:**  
Talking to Jared from Atlassian, I found out they work on UE. I'm really excited at the prospect of an internship working with them and gaining broad experience.

**Python project role:**  
Data models and authentication, to protect against data loss and security breaches - we are doing it as realistically as possible.

**All-nighter strategy?**  
Go to bed early! Which probably means going to bed at midnight...

**Best bit of NCSS so far:**  
Free time in the library, playing games and looking at books - it's nice to relax in the evening.

# What's been happening at NCSS?



and the robot faces are also greatly entertaining.

It is also impressive how each Python group has chosen a different and specific goal for their social network, and how the different front-ends and back-ends are coming together. We're looking forward to seeing the finished products!

## Yesterday's events in a nutshell and what to expect for today

...

The weekend ended with a quiet evening to prepare students for their final day (and night) of programming for their different projects. It's been great to see how the embedded groups are writing code to direct their robots to the goal, and also how different the approaches can be! The princesses of Group 5 and 6

## WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

The last day of proper project work will be busy for both groups. Embedded students will demonstrate their robots in the afternoon, and all groups will start to video footage to put together for their presentations on Tuesday.

The all-nighter will certainly be a test for most, and it'll be interesting to see how the next 36 hours go!

## Sunday's schedule (09.01)

*Morning*  
Lectures/tutorials/project

*Afternoon*  
Lunch at Women's College  
Lectures/tutorials/project

*Evening*  
Dinner at Women's College  
Simulation at Women's College

## Today's schedule (10.01)

*Morning*  
Lectures/tutorials/project

*Afternoon*  
Lunch at Women's College  
Lectures/tutorials/project  
Embedded demonstration

*Evening*  
Dinner at Women's College  
NCSS all-nighter!

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Editor: Vanessa Moss

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