Escape Pod Optimal Group Composition

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Overview

• Live escape room new to Huntsville
• Trying to assess optimal group composition for escaping the room
• Advantageous initial conditions?

• Data collected:
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Puzzle duration
  - Connectedness as a group
  - Timing & directness of hints
  - Puzzle contributors

Explanation

• There is a large body of research on live escape room game design, but very little player strategy
• Initial conditions, strategy choices, and the technician’s hints can increase a group’s probability of escaping the room

Key Findings

• Observed 17 of our goal of 30 groups
• Completion rate so far: 22%
• Minor adjustments made to room based on puzzle difficulty/ambiguity
• Data analysis in progress
• Current record: escape with 8 mins, 30 secs to spare!

Impact

• Escape rooms help with:
  - Teamwork skills
  - Critical thinking
  - Group bonding
  - Productivity/efficiency
• Promote local business, showcase our research to university and community at large

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