



Valuation Office
Agency



GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONAL
RESEARCH
SERVICE

The one about the Valuation Office Agency (VOA)

What's GORS and who are the VOA?

- I applied for my placement through GORS (Government operational research service) who recruited me. I was then placed in the Valuation Office Agency at random
- GORS is a team of government operational researchers. An operational researcher uses various analytics techniques to help make management decisions

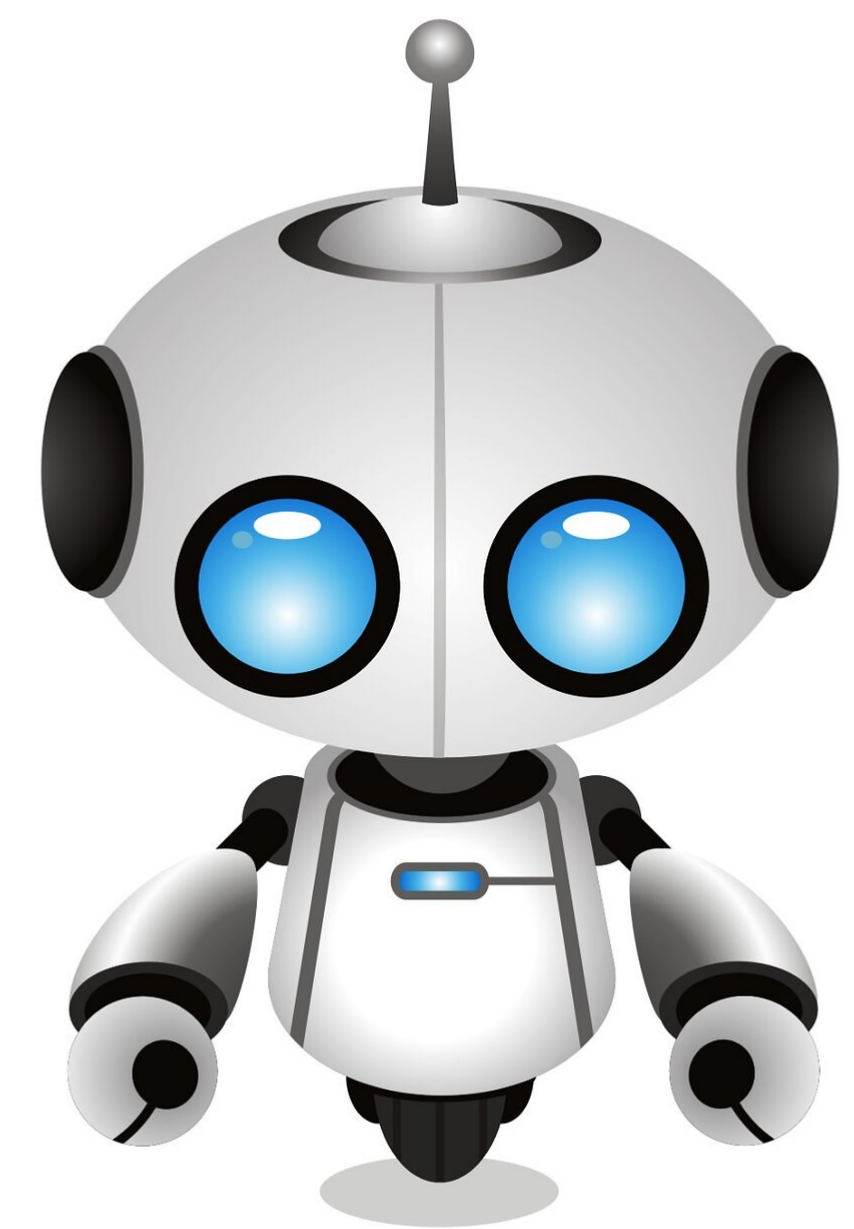


Who are the VOA?

- The Valuation Office Agency has two functions. Firstly, they value properties and assign them a council tax band, this determines how much council tax you pay. Secondly, they set the business rates for all businesses. This is the money that businesses pay to the local council.
- Overall, the VOA's valuations result in £30 billion of revenue each year.

What did I do?

- I was a part of the analytics team. Our job was to increase the efficiency of the work done by the agency.
- I helped build models that automated work that was previously done manually. Using robots
- I wrote code that would draw conclusions from data and present complex databases spread across many datasets as single datasets with all information required.
- I worked with team members to understand undocumented datasets in our central database
- I converted existing code from SAS to R



What did I use?



- SAS—A programming language based around data
- R—A programming language that is very useful for data, but also has other uses
- Excel— Standard spreadsheets as well as power pivots, and VBA based excel applications
- Spark—A framework for working with big data. This was utilised through R using an API
- Power BI - a tool for visualising data and creating interactive dashboards
- Microsoft Azure—A platform for cloud computing that hosted our analytics platform

