

Interview Script

Briefing

Thank you for joining us today. I very appreciate your voluntary help with this quality improvement project.

Let me introduce myself first. My name is XXXX, and I am XXXX from XXXX.

Do you have a preferred name to call you?

Before we begin, do you have any questions about this interview or the study we are conducting today?

Let me give you an overview of what we will do today: We will conduct an interview with you today to understand the issue of GitHub impersonation. This deceptive practice can have significant impact for the developer and student communities. By sharing your insights and experiences, we hope to shed light on this issue and explore potential solutions.

As mentioned in our email, we came across your presence on GitHub in relation to this topic, and we are eager to learn more about your experiences. We anticipate that this interview will take approximately half an hour, but the duration may vary depending on the depth of our conversation.

As a reminder, this interview will be recorded for internal purposes only because I cannot type fast to make notes for the conversation but I don't want to miss anything important that you said. Is that OK with you? Also, During the interview, if you notice that I am looking away, please do not be upset. I am simply making notes of important points that come up during the conversation.

To compensate for your contribution, we will pay you \$20 to thank you for your time and contribution. Based on the XXXX policy we will pay you an electronic gift card/check. This payment will take several weeks.

Before we begin, do you have any questions for me?

Now you are ready? So let's start recording.

Before demo

Why do you usually use Github?

What do you think about collaboration on GitHub, have you collaborated with other people in a project? How big is the project? How many people? Do you know these people?

How do you feel when you become a contributor to a project by pull request? Do you feel different when you are listed as a contributor in the repository?

Do you have security or privacy concerns when using GitHub?

What do you think if someone can easily pretend to be you in Github?

Would you be worried about it? 1-10

Doppelganger Demo

Do you have public information in github? Can I use your email to show the demo? Or I can use other emails.

Demonstrate the Github impersonation.

We have collected 12.5 million commits from 172587 Github users, which show that 3% of the user has used more than one email to commit. Even though they probably use their email, all of them can potentially lead to a user identification leak.

After Demo

What do you feel now after seeing the demo?

After the demo, Would you be worried about that? 1-10

And how can it affect Github community in your opinion?

GitHub has a function called commit signing, do you hear about it?

Show the example of commit signing and how to use it.

What is commit signing:

<https://docs.github.com/en/authentication/managing-commit-signature-verification/signing-commits>

However, commit signing can only mark the real user with a verified label, it can not prevent them from being impersonated.

Are you willing to use commit signing in the future?

What do you think about the commit signing?

Finally, do you have a suggestion about how to prevent these impersonations from happening on Github?

Debriefing

OK, that's all my questions for today! Thank you again for participating in today's study. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me. If you think of any other comments that you forgot to mention today please let me know.

