Defence Against the Cyber Arts (DACA): An Interactive Cybersecurity Teaching Tool for GCSE Students

Participant Information Sheet

Thank you for your consideration in participating in this project interview. This Participant Information Sheet provides you with information regarding the project, your involvement, how data is collected and processed, and your rights to withdraw. Please read this information carefully before continuing with any related activities.

The Project

This project aims to develop and assess a prototype of a digital educational tool for teaching defensive cybersecurity at a GCSE level. This involves a generated set of threats and defences, with a drag-and-drop approach to matching the correct defences to the threats selected. Participation in this research allows the system to be evaluated during its creation, guiding it to be further improved. This project is undertaken as a Computer Science BSc dissertation within Newcastle University.

Your Participation

Participation will involve a short 15–20-minute interview, during which the following will be discussed, alongside a hands-on introduction to the prototype:

- Your experiences in studying computer science and/or cybersecurity.
- Your experiences using digital game-based tools to support learning.
- Your thoughts and opinions regarding the project and prototype.

Open discussion about the project prototype will be encouraged, with directions provided in operating the prototype. The prototype will be a web-based game to ensure it is as easy to access as possible.

Data Privacy, Consent & Withdrawal Information

Any personally identifiable information will be anonymised within any works created. The interview will be recorded for the sole purpose of generating a transcript for further analysis and inclusion within the final research documents. All data collected will only be retained for a maximum period of 5 months to allow for re-contacting if necessary, or for validation of consent by university faculty.

Prior to the interview you will be asked to sign a consent form. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw at any time, without needing to provide a reason. If you decide to withdraw after the interview, any collected data will be promptly deleted.

Thank you for your participation in this interview and your interest in the project. For any further questions, please contact Alexander Lehm at A.R.Lehm2@newcastle.ac.uk.