

Informed Consent to Participate in a Research Study

The purpose of this form is to document that consent was obtained from a person over 18 years of age to participate in a research study. If the person cannot read this form, it must be read to him or her.

Title of Research Study: Intelligent Interfaces to Empower People with Disabilities to Participate in the Information Society

Investigator: Margrit Betke, Ph.D., Phone: 617-353-6412, Email: betke@cs.bu.edu

Purpose: The objective of this project is to help people with severe disabilities gain access to a computer and thereby obtain a tool for communication. The project will explore methods for detection, tracking, and interpretation of human body components and their motion in video. Computer programs will be developed that use these interpretations to provide access to commercially available or custom-built software.

If you agree to participate in this research project, the following things will happen:

- You will be videotaped at _____ in at most three computer sessions, which will take between 10 to 30 minutes. Typically there will be one week between each session.
- During the sessions, you will be asked to control the mouse pointer on the screen by moving your eyes or by small movements of the head, toe, thumb, or other body parts.
- If you are able to control the mouse pointer, we will ask you to perform a sequence of communication tasks. The tasks may be writing a sentence with custom-built spelling software or playing with educational entertainment software.

Confidentiality: All information and video data obtained in this research project will be considered confidential. It will be used for research purposes only. All records will be coded by an id number and kept in a locked file at Boston University. Access to the digital data will be restricted.

Benefits: Participation in this study introduces you to a new computer tool for communication and education.

Risks: The computer session may be tiring. The risk of exertion will be minimized by limiting the computer sessions to at most 30 minutes. We may use lighting for the videotaping, and sometimes this lighting may be warm.

Questions: The researcher has provided information to you about this study and has offered to answer your questions. If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this research study, please contact David Berndt, Director of the Charles River Campus Institutional Review Board, at 617-353-4365.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw: Your participation in the research study is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to take part or withdraw at any time. If you have a physical disability, a caregiver will have to be present throughout the testing and observe you to verify that you assent to participate.

Consent: I, _____, agree to participate in this research study.

Signature of Subject _____ Date: _____

If subject cannot sign due to his or her physical disability:

Name and Signature of Witness _____ Date: _____

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent _____ Date: _____