

Thomas Devine  
Sarah Youngdahl

## Indie Link Protocol

### Introduction

(Following informed consent...) Hello and thank you for agreeing to join a study on the usability of a new social media site, Indie Link! Today we will be looking over prototypes to see how you would use the website. This will be a test of how the website functions rather than a personal test of you. We are evaluating the design of the site.

While you use the site, we would like you to “Think Aloud”, meaning you will speak all of your thoughts including what you like, dislike, or what you think is confusing. We want to make the site as accessible as possible so your feedback will be important. We will be having a moderator and a dedicated note-taker.

Your thoughts will be recorded via pencil and paper, but you will not be recorded at this time. We will be taking notes on what you are saying or doing, but not recordings.

### Background

Are you a game developer?

(If game developer) How do you attract players?

What kind of games do you like to play?

Do you play any indie games?

(If you play indie games) How do you usually find a new game to play?

How do you currently find new games to play and what do you like or dislike about those tactics?

### **Task 1**

Imagine you are looking for a new game to play. Look for a game in your favorite genre. If you want to play an action-heavy game, how can you find a list of games that fulfill the requirement?

*Note: order of navigation/features used AND mistakes or backtracking*

- ☐ *Used search function*
- ☐ *Used tagging*
- ☐ *Used Genre search*

*Problems:*

### **Task 2**

Imagine a scenario in which you are excited about the upcoming release of a new game. This game's developer is active on Indie Link and is posting regular updates. You have a suggestion that you want to share with the developer, is there anything on the site that achieves that functionality?

*Note: order of navigation/features used AND mistakes or backtracking*

- ☐ *Found Commenting*

## Switch to Developer Flow

### Task 3

Imagine you are a game developer who has just finished their newest game and wants to attract players. Try to create a page for a hypothetical game, you can use your favorite game as a stand-in.

- ☐ *Found Game Page Creation*
- ☐ *Filled out Game Page Creation*
- ☐ *Posted Game Page*

*Problems:*

### Debrief

Now that you have used the site, what did you find to be the best thing about the site?

What did you find to be confusing?

What is the site missing?

Any other thoughts or questions?

Thank you for your time, We appreciate it greatly and your feedback will be used to improve the website!