

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Cooking Companion – An assistant application for users with mild cognitive impairment**

Name of Researcher: Christopher Whitehead  
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Name of Supervisor: Zack Lyons  
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This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It should give you a basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. Please read this information sheet carefully and ask the researcher named above if you are not clear about any details of the project.

#### **1. What is the purpose of the project:**

The project is being done as part of my MSc in 'Computer Science' and aims is to establish a prototype application which may later go on to help user groups with mild cognitive impairment. This study will be using existing research as a basis for the design and will perform testing to establish baseline user feedback. This may inform other studies in the future that look to address the chosen user group more specifically in a similar or adjacent study.

#### **2. Why have I been selected to take part?**

All users have been given consideration if they can consent that they are 18 years of age or older. Currently we are not testing on any specific demographic but are looking to obtain baseline feedback on user experience.

#### **3. Do I have to take part?**

It is completely up to you to decide if you would like to participate. Before you decide to take part, we will describe the project and go through this information sheet with you. If you agree to take part, we will ask first for your consent form. However, if at any time you decide you no longer wish to take part in this project you are free to withdraw, without giving a reason.

#### **4. What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to navigate to the web-app via a URL stated in your participation reply. Upon successful navigation to the web-app, you will be required to confirm consent of participation and will be given access to use the web-app. We would then ask you to have a play with the functionality of the app, ideally completing a meal recipe from start to finish; testing shouldn't take longer than 5-10 minutes. Once you are happy you have experienced the web-app, you will be invited to participate in a brief questionnaire which will ask a few questions regarding the technical experience of the app, followed by questions regarding the functionality and design.

No personal information will be captured by the app or the questionnaire and will be entirely anonymous. All data will be used to analyse if the prototype is working as intended and gain some feedback on what users think could be changed.

**5. What are the exclusion criteria?  
(are there reasons why I should not take part)?**

This survey is open to any individual over the age of 18. The only restrictions are the requirements for participation which require access to a device with a web browser (ideally Chrome/Safari/Edge) and an internet connection.

**6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are no direct benefits to taking part in the project. But participation will help us build a solid foundation in our prototype and will potentially inform future studies that involve more particular users such as people with mild cognitive impairment.

**7. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There are no disadvantages to you taking part in the project. If the questionnaire asks a question that you do not want to answer for any reason, you can choose not to answer.

**8. Will my participation involve any discomfort or embarrassment?**

We do not expect you to feel any discomfort or embarrassment if you take part in the project. If, however you do feel uncomfortable or upset at any time, or you do not wish to continue for any reason, you are free to exit the questionnaire at any time.

**9. Who will have access to the information that I provide?**

Only the researcher team will have access to the information that you provide. All records will be treated as confidential.

**10. What will happen to the data collected and the results of the project?**

All data are collected anonymously, handled as encrypted and confidential by the researcher. The storage of data will be done in accordance with UK-GDPR by the researcher, and compliant to the requests of the University of Bath. The collected

data will be stored for the duration of the development of project, leading to the completion of the dissertation. They will not be maintained longer than one year after submission of the dissertation, as requested by the University. The collected data will be destroyed after that period. No identifying information is present, nor will it be disclosed in any presentation or publication of the research.

After the project has finished, the researcher may provide participants with a summary of the project results if they would like that. This summary will not include any identifiable information and will show the overall findings of the project only.

### **11. Who has reviewed the project?**

This project has been reviewed through the Ethics@Bath process within the Department of Computer Science, University of Bath.

### **12. How can I withdraw from the project?**

If you wish to stop participating before completing all parts of the project you may choose to inform the identified researcher. You can withdraw from the project at any time without providing a reason for doing so and without any repercussions.

Although you are free to exit the questionnaire at any time prior to submission, we will not be able to withdraw your data once you submit your completed survey. The reason for this is that the response data will not contain any identifiable information, and so it will not be possible to differentiate your responses from those of other participants.

### **13. University of Bath privacy notice**

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here:  
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

### **14. What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project, the researcher, Christopher Whitehead, email is the first point of contact and will do their best to answer any questions.

**15. If I require further information who should I contact and how?**

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Contact details of Researcher: cw2480@bath.ac.uk

Name of Supervisor: Zack Lyons  
Contact details of Supervisor: zl221@bath.ac.uk

Thank you for expressing an interest in participating in this project.