**Participant Information Sheet**

**Research Title:** DECO3500 – Group code collaboration in an online environment

**Researcher(s):** James McAuley, Adrian Sze Yuen Low, Ferdi Sungkar, Ida Green Heglund – All researchers are student of School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please read the following information about the project, so that you can decide whether you would like to take part in this research. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about our involvement in the project.

If you decide to participate in this research, please keep in mind that your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to stop at any time, and you would not need to give any explanation for your decision to stop participating. If you choose to stop participating, your data will not be used in the research. May request for your data to be excluded from the project in its entirety before the end of the Data Collection phase (latest date: 29th of September, 2022). Beyond that point, your data will have been used in to generate the findings of this research activity. Although your name will not be associated with the data collected, as the data format is a video recording, your face will be identifiable.

You will be given the Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Queensland or the researchers.

**What is this research about?**

The aim of this study is to analyse the domain and problem space chosen by the Lost at Sea group members. In this proposal, we will focus on the domain of online learning (more specifically, coding/programming) and would like to find out how effective online learning is compared to someone who studied in person in a school or university. Our target audience for this proposal is geared toward High School Graduates and University Students. During the 2020-2021 global COVID-19 lockdown, many students’ first encounters with coding/programming are done online.

The aim of this specific research activity is to conduct a semi-structured interview which will be used to reference the potential solution from. The teachers and students that partake in this interview will be identified potential stakeholders in the problem space.

**What will I need to do?**

If you agree to participate you will be interviewed regarding your experience with online learning as an individual and a group. The interviews will last about 5 - 10 minutes each, and be conducted at the University of Queensland St Lucia campus, in the General-Purpose South Building; or online via Zoom for participants who are unable to attend the campus in person. Three topics will be discussed with the interviewer. Firstly, we will discuss your proficiency with online learning and how frequently you use the system to learn. Secondly, we will discuss your learning experience with coding specifically, including what languages, level of experience, and how you learnt. Finally, we will discuss what would you change about online learning and how would you be more engaged with group coding projects through an online format.

The interview will be conducted in English. With your permission, we would like to video, or audio record your interview, as this allows us to review it later, but this is optional. You will be asked to provide your signature to verify your consent, with the option to provide your email if you wish to hear further details about the project

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

Your participation in this research project will create a qualitative data which will be used to analyse the problem space and further potential advancements in coding online learning. Aside from this, there will be no direct benefits from your participation in the research.

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

This project has no risks beyond everyday life. However, if you have any concerns about the project, please discuss these with the researchers.

**What will happen to the information about me?**

All information collected about you will remain confidential. While video recordings may contain your face and cannot be anonymised, all reporting on this part of the research project will be de-identified.

You will be asked to provide your name and signature to verify your consent, with the option to provide your email if you wish to hear further details about the project. Your participation in the project will be anonymised (for example, with references to Participant X within the paper) If you so choose, you may elect to use a codename of your choosing to identify yourself as a member of the study. Your codename can be your real name, if you wish your comments to be identifiable as yours.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forms. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your expressed permission. The data from this study will be retained and may be used in related research.

**What will happen if I decide to withdraw?**

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the research anytime without needing to provide any explanation, and you would not receive any penalty or bias as a result of your withdrawal. Should you decide to withdraw, all the information collected from/about you will be destroyed and will not be used in the research. You may request for your data to be excluded from the project in its entirety before the end of the Data Collection phase (latest date: 29th of September 2022). Beyond that point, your data will be used in an anonymous, non-identifying form as part of the findings of this research activity. Although your name will be hidden, as the data format is a recording, your face will be identifiable and only used research purposes.

**Can I hear about the results of this research?**

By providing your email in the attached consent form, you will be added to a mailing list that allows you to keep track of major milestones in the project such as significant progressions of the sprints and final exhibition. You will also be invited to the second phase of data collection, involving user testing for the design prototype.

**Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher contactable on j.korte@uq.edu.au. If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au)