FEPS Ethics Committee  
 Ver 1

Refer to the *Instructions* and to the *Guide* documents for a glossary of the key phrases in **bold** and for an explanation of the information required in each section. The *Templates* document provides some text that may be helpful in preparing some of the required appendices.

Replace the highlighted text with the appropriate information.

Note that the size of the text entry boxes provided on this form does **not** indicate the expected amount of information; instead, refer to the *Instructions* and to the *Guide* documents in providing the complete information required in each section. Do **not** duplicate information from one text box to another. Do not otherwise edit this form.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reference number: **ERGO//**62152 | Submission version: 1 | Date: 2020-12-02 |
| Name of **investigator**(s):  Daniel Best | | |
| Name of supervisor(s) (if student **investigator**(s)):  Julian Rathke | | |
| Title of study: The feasibility of Lua for game modification development | | |
| ***Note*** that failure to follow the University’s policy on Ethics may lead to disciplinary action concerning Misconduct or a breach of Academic Integrity.  By submitting this application, the investigator(s) undertake to:  • Conduct the study in accordance with University policies governing: **Ethics** (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ris/policies/ethics.html); **Data management** (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/library/research/researchdata/); **Health and Safety** (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/healthandsafety); **Academic Integrity** (http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/academic-integrity-statement.html.  • Ensure the study Reference number ERGO/FEPS/xxxx is prominently displayed on all advertising and study materials, and is reported on all media and in all publications;  • Conduct the study in accordance with the information provided in the application, its appendices, and any other documents submitted;  • Submit the study for re-review (as an amendment through ERGO) or seek EC advice if any changes, circumstances, or outcomes materially affect the study or the information given;  • Promptly advise an appropriate authority (Research Integrity and Governance team) of any adverse study outcomes;  • Submit an end-of-study form if required to do so. | | |
|  | | |

# Refer to the Instructions and Guide documents when completing this form and the Templates document when preparing the required appendices.

# Study details

|  |
| --- |
| **What are the aims and objectives of this study?** |
| To gain information from domain-specific experts (addon developers) about the positives and shortcomings of Lua as a programming language in the context of video game modification development. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Background of the study** (*a brief rationale for conducting the study)* |
| We want to get an insight into the nuances of programming in Lua for mod development from a range of mod developers, both beginners and experts (potentially even people who do this in a professional capacity). |

|  |
| --- |
| **Key research question** *(Specify hypothesis if applicable*) |
| What are the positives and negatives of using Lua for developing video game modifications? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Study design** *(Give a* ***brief*** *outline of the study design and why it is being used*) |
| The study will be conducted by sending out a Google Forms questionnaire to various forums for games modding communities. The questionnaire will not ask for any personal information, and will be completely anonymous. |

# Pre-study

|  |
| --- |
| Characterise the proposed **participants** |
| Video game mod creators of any skill level. |

|  |
| --- |
| Describe how **participants** will be approached |
| If any e-mail lists are used, including FEPS distribution lists, justify their use *here*  The questionnaire will be posted in various forums for game modification communities, such as Discord servers and website forums. |

|  |
| --- |
| Describe how inclusion / exclusion criteria will be applied (if any) |
| There will be no inclusion/exclusion criteria. |

|  |
| --- |
| Describe how **participants** will decide whether or not to take part |
| They can simply choose to ignore the message and not fill out the questionnaire. |

***Participant Information (Appendix (i))***

Provide the **Participant Information** in the form that it will be given to **participants** as Appendix (i). All studies must provide **participant information**.

***Consent Form/Information (Appendix (iii))***

Provide the **Consent Form** (or the request for consent) in the form that it will be given to **participants** as Appendix (iii). All studies must obtain **participant** consent. Some studies may obtain verbal consent (and only present consent information), other studies will require written consent, as explained in the *Instructions,* *Guide,* and *Templates* documents.

# During the study

|  |
| --- |
| Describe the study procedures as they will be experienced by the **participants** |
| The participant will independently open the questionnaire in their browser and fill it out to completion. |

|  |
| --- |
| Identify how, when, where, and what kind of data will be recorded (not just the formal research data, but including all other study data such as e-mail addresses and signed consent forms) |
| The data will only be recorded through the attached questionnaire – the questionnaire will be available to fill out until I feel that I have enough good responses to gauge the information I need to enter the design stage. |

***Participant questionnaire/data gathering methods (Appendix (ii))***

As Appendix (ii), reproduce any and all **participant** questionnaires or data gathering instruments in the exact forms that they will be given to or experienced by **participants**. If conducting less formal data collection, or data collection that does not involve direct questioning or observation of participants (eg secondary data or “big data”), provide specific information concerning the methods that will be used to obtain the data of the study.

# Post-study

|  |
| --- |
| Identify how, when, and where data will be stored, processed, and destroyed |
| If the Study Characteristic M.1 applies, provide this information in the **DPA Plan** as Appendix (iv) instead and do *not* provide explanation or information on this matter here  The data will be kept on Google Drive in the form it was collected in. This data will be stored as soon as the questionnaire is completed by each participant. It will be processed simply by me reading the responses, and there is no intention to destroy the data. |

# Study characteristics

(L.1) The study is funded by a commercial organisation: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, provide details of the funder or funding agency *here.*

(L.2) There are **restrictions** upon the study: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, explain the nature and necessity of the **restrictions** *here.*

(L.3) Access to **participants** is through a third party: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, provide evidence of your permission to contact them as (v) in the *Checklist* below. Do *not* provide explanation or information on this matter here.

(M.1) **Personal data** is or \*may be collected or processed: **No** (delete one)  
Data will be processed outside the UK: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’ to either question, provide the **DPA Plan** as (iv) in the *Checklist* below. Do *not* provide information or explanation on this matter here. Note that using or recording e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, signed consent forms, or similar study-related **personal data** requires M.1 to be “Yes”.

(\* Secondary data / “big data” may be *de-*anonymised, or may contain **personal data**. If so, answer ‘Yes’.)

(M.2) There is **inducement** to **participants**: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, explain the nature and necessity of the inducement *here.*

(M.3) The study is **intrusive**: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, provide the **Risk Management Plan,** the **Debrief Plan,** and Technical Details as (vi), (vii), and (ix) in the *Checklist* below, and explain *here* the nature and necessity of the intrusion(s).

(M.4) There is **risk of harm** during the study: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, provide the **Risk Management Plan**, the **Contact Information**, the **Debrief Plan**, and Technical Details as (vi), (vii), (viii), and (ix) in the *Checklist* below, and explain *here* the necessity of the risks.

(M.5) The true purpose of the study will be hidden from **participants**: **No** (delete one)  
The study involves **deception** of **participants**: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’ to either question, provide the **Debrief Plan** and Technical Details as (vii) and (ix) in the *Checklist* below, and explain *here* the necessity of the deception.

(M.6) **Participants** may be minors or otherwise have **diminished capacity**: **Yes** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, AND if one or more Study Characteristics in categories M or H applies, provide the **Risk Management Plan,** the **Contact Information**, and Technical Details as (vi), (vii), & (ix) in the *Checklist* below, and explain *here* the special arrangements that will ensure informed consent.

(M.7) **Special category personal data** is collected or processed: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, provide the **DPA Plan** and Technical Details as (iv) and (ix) in the *Checklist* below. Do *not* provide explanation or information on this matter here.

(H.1) The study involves: **invasive** equipment, material(s), or process(es); or **participants** who are not able to withdraw at any time and for any reason; or animals; or human tissue; or biological samples: **No** (delete one)

If ‘Yes’, provide Technical Details and further justifications as (ix) and (x) in the *Checklist* below. Do *not* provide explanation or information on these matters here. Note that the study will require separate approval by the Research Governance Office.

***Technical details***

If one or more Study Characteristics in categories M.3 to M.7 or H applies, provide the description of the technical details of the experimental or study design, the power calculation(s) which yield the required sample size(s), and how the data will be analysed, as separate appendices.

# Checklist of Documents to upload

Please provide the following forms, *naming the files as explicitly* as possible, e.g., “Participant Information”, “Questionnaire”, “Consent Form”, “DPA Plan”, “Permission to contact”, “Risk Management Plan”, “Debrief Plan”, “Contact Information”, and/or “Technical details” as appropriate. Each document must specify the reference number in the form ERGO//xxxx, the document version number, and its date of last edit.

(i): **Participant Information** in the form that it will be given to **participants.**

(ii): Data collection method (eg for secondary data or “big data”) / **Participant** Questionnaire in the form that it will be given to **participants.**

(iii): **Consent Form** (or consent information if no **personal data** is collected) in the form that it will be given to **participants.**

(iv): **DPA Plan.**

(v): Evidence of permission to contact (prospective) **participants** through any third party.

(vi): **Risk Management Plan**.

(vii): **Debrief Plan**.

(viii): **Contact Information**.

(ix): Technical details of the experimental or study design, the power calculation(s) for the required sample size(s), and how the data will be analysed.

(x): Further details and justifications in the case of: **invasive** equipment, material(s), or process(es); **participants** who are not able to withdraw at any time and for any reason; animals; human tissue; or biological samples.