

Participant Information Sheet

Project title: LandFill

Invitation paragraph

I would like to invite you to take part in user testing for my software development project. Before you decide whether to participate, I would like you to understand what this will involve for you and the purpose of your involvement. Feel free to ask me any questions.

What is the purpose of the project?

I am working to develop LandFill, a “Manabase Optimizer” for the Magic the Gathering Card Game; specifically, the Commander format. A deckbuilder would input a decklist of non-land cards, and some inputs about what lands they like and do not like. It will then generate a list of land cards that will fill out the deck, roughly optimized to maximize the ability of the deck to deploy its spell cards.

I am doing this for my final project towards an MSc qualification in Computer Science. Although I will be developing the software, the actual assessed deliverable will be a report documenting my development process and computational challenges that it has raised along the way, which will include references to studies such as this one which I am running to ensure I develop a functional product.

Why have I been invited to participate?

I am asking you to participate because, as a Magic: The Gathering player, you would be a potential user of this software if it were deployed as a commercial product. I would therefore value your input about whether LandFill adds value.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this is entirely voluntary. I will go through this sheet with you before starting the study, and am happy to answer any questions you may have. If you agree to take part, I will ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time for no reason while it is being run. However, as your comments and performance will be recorded anonymously, you will not be able to remove this data after the end of the study.

What will happen to me if I take part and what will I have to do?

I will call you on a messenger app of your choosing and ask you to add lands to two Commander Decks (both of which currently have only spells). The first time you will be allowed to do this as you normally would. The second time you will be asked to use LandFill. I will time you doing both tasks. After each I will ask you to complete a short questionnaire, the “NASA Task Load Index”, which will gauge how difficult and stressful you found each task. I will then move to a semi-structured interview, in which I will ask you your opinions on how the lands you chose differ from those produced by LandFill and whether you consider its opinions useful; I will also ask you for thoughts on the system as a whole and potential new features to add. You may withdraw at any time.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks involved in taking part in the project?

As the data is anonymised, and the software itself is purely an aid for playing a recreational game, I do not foresee participation in this study posing any risk of discomfort or inconvenience to the participant.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There is a chance that, should this design project go well, a completed version of the software will be released online as a deck-building tool. If so, you will be very welcome to use it for your own decks.

Will my participation in this project be kept confidential?

Your data will be recorded anonymously. At no point during this process will you be identified by name, contact detail, or visually.

While my project is written, this anonymised data will be stored on my personal OneDrive account in my notes, and will be deleted at the end of the project. The final draft of my project will remain in that folder, and will also be kept by the University of Bristol. Both myself and that organization may choose to share it with others.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

Your anonymised comments may or may not be referenced in the Project Report that I write over the summer of 2025. This will be submitted as the final project of my degree, comprising 60 credits of a MSc in Computer Science. I do not currently intend to publish any of my work. Should I launch a version of the completed software after graduation, this will not contain any reference to this study in its documentation.

Participants are welcome to contact me to ask for a copy of my dissertation on its completion.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is overseen by the School of Computer Science of the University of Bristol. It being done as part of the Conversion Masters in Computer Science MSc.

Who has reviewed the study?

The work will be reviewed by John Lapinskas, who is a Senior Lecturer in the University of Bristol School of Computer Science.

Further information and contact details

Should you wish to contact me with any further questions, I can be reached:

By telephone or WhatsApp – 07955258430

By email – zs24945@bristol.ac.uk

On Discord – LeahUnknowing

If you have any concerns related to your participation in this study beyond what I am able to answer, please contact the University of Bristol's Research Governance team at: research-governance@bristol.ac.uk