

User Evaluation on Water Pollutant Program

About the Research

Who will conduct the research?

Thomas Onions, Alexander Del Brocco, Callum Soleil, Zhi Qing Cheng and Kim Smith – all undergraduate students of computer science at The University of Leeds.

What is the purpose of the research?

To gain feedback on a developed program displaying data about water pollutants; finding ways in which it can be improved in future versions, to make the overall user experience more enhanced, enjoyable and accessible.

You have been chosen because of your level of technical competence – to test whether a technically experienced individual can use the app with ease, interest in environmental studies and geographical data – to give advice on how the project can be developed further, and any areas of interest that could be explored, or lay-person – to simulate a real-life user who may be using the program for the first time, and test the intuition of the design.

Am I suitable to take part?

To take part in this research, you must have the technical skills to use a computer to a basic level. The researcher will assist you in running the program initially, however using the program will be solely performed by you (basic application using a window).

Will the outcomes of this research be published?

Your data will only be published in a fully anonymized dataset at the end of the project, and anonymized quotes may be used in published documentation as an indication of where feedback has been taken into account to improve the application.

Who has reviewed the research project?

This overall computer science module at the University of Leeds has been reviewed by The University of Leeds Ethics Committee and has gained a blanked agreement for all student groups taking part in this project.

What would my involvement be?

What would I be asked to do if I took part?

This will involve a single session using the program, during which questions will be asked to grasp the ease of use and talk about which parts of the developed solution you found helpful, accessible and easy to use, and which parts were unhelpful, inaccessible and difficult to use. This session will last a maximum of 45 minutes (10 minutes consent and introduction, 20 minutes testing, 15 minutes informal interview).

Will I be compensated for taking part?

There is no compensation for taking part in this research project.

What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do not wish to take part, or have changed your mind about taking part, please email: sc23to2@leeds.ac.uk as soon as possible, so we can remove your data wherever possible. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign and initial a consent form, to confirm consent. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data.

This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part, you do not need to do anything further.

We may ask if we can record the informal interview to aid with our research. You are free to decline this, and do not have to sign this on the GDPR consent form. We want you to feel comfortable with the recording processes at all times, and you are free to verbally withdraw your consent at any time and stop the recording, with an option to delete the conversation if wanted.

Data Protection and Confidentiality

What information will you collect about me?

In order to participate in this research project, we will need to collect information that could identify you, called “personal identifiable information”. Specifically, we will need to collect:

- A first name
- An email address (for contact purposes).

We may also collect (with permission, see above and GDPR consent form):

- Recordings of your voice during the informal interview after testing the program.

Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protects your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example, you can request a copy of the information we hold about you, including audio recordings.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult The University of Leeds privacy notice: <https://dataprotection.leeds.ac.uk/research-participant-privacy-notice/>

Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Leeds is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept

secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

- As soon as the interview has been completed, the data will be fully anonymised, meaning no one, not even the research team will be able to identify you specifically.
- Your data given (feedback) will be stored anonymised on the University of Leeds sites and devices so only as long as necessary for the project to be marked by teaching staff.
- No data will be transferred outside the EU, and if it is stored on university cloud systems it is fully anonymised.
- The data will not be shared with any other organisation.
- We will not be keeping your data or contact details for use in future studies.
- We will not be archiving the data in a repository.
- Any recordings taken will not be used to create transcripts
- Any recordings will be destroyed no later than 12th December
- Only those in the research team will have access to the recordings.