**Participant Information Sheet**

1. **Project title**

Social Networking Site (SNS) Addiction

1. **Principal Investigator and co-investigator(s), if any, with the contact number and organization:**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tuan Q. Phan, Department of Information Systems, School of Computing, National University of Singapore, 66011054

Co-investigator: Dr. Bernard C. Y. Tan, Department of Information Systems, School of Computing, National University of Singapore, 65166868

Co-investigator: Mr. Haifeng Xu, Department of Information Systems, School of Computing, National University of Singapore, 86217987

1. **What is the purpose of this research?**

You are invited to participate in a research study. This information sheet provides you with information about the research. The Principal Investigator (the person in charge of this research) or his representative will also describe this research to you and answer all of your questions. Read the information below and ask questions about anything you don’t understand before deciding whether or not to take part.

Social media has become an important tool for people to communicate with each other. Statistics have shown that a large number of people have used SNSs frequently, sometimes even excessively. In order to investigate the formation of SNS addiction, we propose novel measures of SNS addiction and SNS use habit using historical data.

1. **Who can participate in the research? What is the expected duration of my participation? What is the duration of this research?**

Any people aged 18 and above who speak English and have Facebook use experience can participate in the research. The expected duration of your participation is 10 minutes. The duration of this research will be from 1 April, 2015 to 15 April,2015.

1. **What is the approximate number of participants involved?**

350

1. **What will be done if I take part in this research?**

First, you will opt in to an app and accept permission to access your Facebook profile, friend list, posts, messages, photos and videos. Then you will be required to complete an online survey. After you finish the survey, a code will appear on the screen. You will copy the code and paste it on the webpage of Amazon Mechanical Turk to obtain your reimbursement.

The data obtained from your Facebook account will be compared with your survey data to test the validity of these measures of SNS addiction.

1. **How will my privacy and the confidentiality of my research records be protected?**

Data is provided according to the Facebook term of use, and your consent to provide identifiable data (provide link on FB site).  Data will be encrypted stored on a secure server at NUS for analysis only by the researchers and no other parties.  All data collected will be coded at the earliest stage of the research. Personal identifiers and research data will be kept separately. No information from your Facebook account will be used in publication/presentation. Data will be kept in accordance to the University's Research Data Management Policy.  Research data used in publication will be kept for a minimum of 10 years before being discarded. Personal identifiers (email address) will be discarded as soon as we contact the subjects who wish to be informed of their possible addiction to SNSs.

1. **What are the possible discomforts and risks for participants?**

There are no discomforts and risks for participants in the study.

1. **What is the compensation for any injury?**

Since the study will be conducted online, you can finish it on your own computer. No injury is expected and hence there will be no compensation.

1. **Will there be reimbursement for participation?**

Yes, you will be given $5 as reimbursement.

1. **What are the possible benefits to me and to others?**

There is no direct benefit to you by participating in this research. The knowledge about SNS addiction gained may benefit the public in the future.

1. **Can I refuse to participate in this research?**

Yes, you can. Your decision to participate in this research is voluntary and completely up to you. You can also withdraw from the research at any time without giving any reasons, by informing the principal investigator and all your data collected will be discarded.

1. **Whom should I call if I have any questions or problems?**

Please contact the Attn: Haifeng XU at **telephone +65-86217987 and email**

[**xu-haif@comp.nus.edu.sg**](mailto:xu-haif@comp.nus.edu.sg), Tuan PHAN and Bernard TAN at **email** [**snsresearchnus@gmail.com**](mailto:snsresearchnus@gmail.com) for all research-related matters and in the event of research-related injuries.

For an independent opinion regarding the research and the rights of research participants, you may contact a staff member of the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board (Attn: Mr Chan Tuck Wai, at telephone (+65) 6516 1234 or email at irb@nus.edu.sg).