Participant Information Sheet

Deepfakes, can you find me? A study to establish whether knowledge gaps exist in regard to Deepfakes and synthetic media.

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is taking place and what it will entail. Please read the following information carefully and if any questions arise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for reading.

What is the purpose of the study?
This research is being undertaken on adults who ideally have no background within Cyber Security. The project is to determine if there is a gap in knowledge when it comes to Deepfakes and synthetic media and to raise awareness if there is. Deepfakes are typically a photo or a video that has been digitally altered to deceive or mislead the viewer. The aim of this project is to create a training module in which participants can learn how a Deepfake is made, what they are used for and how it can be detected.

Why have I been chosen?
You have been chosen as you are not employed within a Cyber Security environment.

Do I have to take part?
No, the decision lies with you. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep, and a consent form will be generated for you to sign. You are free to withdraw from this project up to point of submitting anonymous data without reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?
You will take a training module at your own pace, using a web-based approach on your own machine, or a machine will be provided if you do not have one. You will be asked to submit just your age and complete a short quiz at the end of the training to identify any trends. In the final report, no one will be identifiable.

How long will the study take?
The online awareness training, quiz and questionnaire should take no more than 1 hour of your time, however it can be taken at your own pace, please do not rush.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
There are no disadvantages or risks that can be foreseen for completing the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part in this study, you will gain knowledge of Deepfakes and synthetic media and contributing to the training of future participants.

What if something goes wrong?
If you do wish to complain about anything relating to this study, about how you were treated, approached or guided, please contact Graham Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Chester (graham.smith@chester.ac.uk)

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?
All information which is collected about you during the study will be kept strictly confidential, only the researcher carrying out the research will have access to the information.

What will happen to the results of the research study?
The results will be used and written up into a dissertation for my final project of my MSc. Individuals who participate in the study will not be identified in any subsequent report or publication.

Who is organising the research?
The study is conducted as part of a MSc in Cyber Security within the Department of Science and Engineering at the University of Chester. The is study is organised with supervision from the department, by Lauren Millward, an MSc student.

Who may I contact for further information?
If you would like further information about the study before you make a decision about taking part please contact:
Lauren Millward 2129830@chester.ac.uk

Retention and publication of participants data
Participants should be aware that data collected from this project may be retained and published in an anonymised form. Upon agreement to participate within this study, you are consenting to the retention and publication of data.

Thank you for your interest in this study.