**Committee on Research Ethics**

<u>Student Projects</u>: **Honours Year Computer Science Project (Comp390),**
**Honours Year Artificial Intelligence Project (Comp393),**
**Honours Year Electronic Commerce Computing Project (Comp394),**
**Honours Year Internet Computing Project (Comp395),**
**Final Year First Semester 15 credit Project (Comp391),**
**Final Year Second Semester 15 credit Project (Comp392),**
**MEng Group Project (Comp591), MEng Individual Project (Comp592),**
**MSc Project (Comp702)**

**Student Project 3rd Party Evaluator Information Sheet**

**Title of the Student Project:** Pac-Man

**Module:** COMP 390

**Student:** Zhengli Yu

**1st Supervisor:** Alexei Lisitsa

*You are being invited to participate in a Computer Science Department student project 3rd party evaluation. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the 3rd party evaluation of the student project is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask us if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. Please also feel free to discuss this with your friends, relatives and GP if you wish. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.*

*Thank you for reading this.*

1. **What is the purpose of the student project?**

The aim of the Honours year, MEng, and MSc student projects at the Department of Computer Science is to give the students an opportunity to work in a guided but independent fashion to explore a substantial computing problem in depth, making practical use of principles, techniques and methodologies acquired elsewhere in the course. Among the learning outcomes of the projects is the students' ability to evaluate in a critical fashion the work they have done, and to place it in the context of related work.

A computer system 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation/testing is among the main evaluation techniques in a Computing project, important for the students in order to demonstrate their project learning outcomes and skills.

## 2. Why have I been chosen to take part?

The students usually approach and ask their client(s), potential user(s), and/or friends and family who are either most close to the project or simply capable to provide the feedback on the computing system.  The 3$^{rd}$ party evaluators will be told what for and how their feedback will be used. If the client(s)/potential user(s)/friends and family agree, the students will obtain a signed consent form from them.

## 3. Do I have to take part?

Your participation in the project 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at anytime without explanation and without incurring a disadvantage.

## 4. What will happen if I take part?

In the end of the project, the student will ask you to try the computing system s/he delivered during the project and to provide your feedback by filling in a 3$^{rd}$ Party Evaluation Questionnaire. This does not involve any audio/visual recording.

## 5. Expenses and / or payments

No expenses/payments are needed or available for the participants.

## 6. Are there any risks in taking part?

The 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation of the project computer systems happens routinely at the Department and/or by the 3$^{rd}$ party evaluators at their own safe sites. We do not foresee any risks or hazards created specifically by the 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation process. No potential physical or psychological adverse effects are anticipated.

## 7. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no intended benefits in taking part in the student project 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation.

## 8. What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

*If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting Dr Irina Biktasheva (for all projects other than MSc Projects, ivb@liv.ac.uk) or Dr Russell Martin (for MSc Projects, Russell.Martin@liverpool.ac.uk) and we will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to*

*us with then you should contact the Research Governance Officer at ethics@liv.ac.uk. When contacting the Research Governance Officer, please provide title of the project (so that it can be identified), the student involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.*

### 9. Will my participation be kept confidential?

Yes, your participation in the computer system 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation/testing will be kept confidential. The 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation data will be anonymised so that no individual can be recognised, and stored responsibly as part of the project report on the university's servers.

### 10. What will happen to the results of the student project 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation?

The anonymised feedback data provided by the 3$^{rd}$ party evaluators will be used as a reference for the student project report Evaluation chapter. The project report will be assessed solely according to academic marking guidelines, and stored responsibly on the university's secure servers.

### 11. What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

You can withdraw at anytime, without explanation. Your 3$^{rd}$ party evaluation results up to the period of withdrawal may be used, if you are happy for this to be done. Otherwise you may request that they are destroyed and no further use is made of them. Anonymised 3$^{rd}$ party project evaluation results may only be withdrawn prior to anonymisation.

### 12. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

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