CONSENT FORM

User Research as part of the CSci 5115 Class Project

PathMates

Student Team Members:

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**Introduction**

You are being invited to participate in user research as part of a class project in the course Computer Science 5115 at the University of Minnesota. We ask that you read and consider this consent form, ask any questions you have, and agree (by signature or by verbal agreement) only if you are comfortable proceeding.

**Description of the Research Procedure**

We are conducting interviews and surveys with students who walk around the UMN-TC campus. The goal is to understand your experience walking alone, particularly at night or in dangerous areas. We will send out a written introductory survey including several questions to get insight into your current walking habits, walking experiences, and any other comments. Then, we will conduct a verbal interview where we will ask you to elaborate more on the different aspects of your walking experiences, tools or methods you may use for safety, and your thoughts on our app design. The participants are able to skip any questions they want at any point in this process.

**Risks and Benefits of Participation**

The only risks associated with participation involve disclosure of any information you would prefer to keep private. Please do not disclose information you would prefer to keep private. We will keep all notes of information you disclose separate from your name, and we will remove any notes you ask us to, or will destroy all notes at your request.

There are no benefits to participation. We appreciate your generosity in helping us with our project.

**Confidentiality of Data Collected**

We will not record our session with you.

The notes we take will not include your name, e-mail, or other identifying information. We will retain our notes for the duration of the course, and will destroy them afterwards. If you disclose information that you later would like us to remove, please inform us and we will remove it. We will keep the fact of your participation private to the project team and course professor and TAs. We may share examples to illustrate what we’ve learned, but only in a manner that is non-identifying.

**Voluntary Nature of Participation**

Your participation in this user research is entirely voluntary and will have no effect on your current or future relationship with the University of Minnesota. If you decide to participate, you may choose not to answer specific questions. You may also withdraw from participation at any time.

**Questions and Contacts**

The students conducting this study are listed above. Please feel free to contact them at any time to ask questions. The professor in charge of this course is Prof. Joseph Konstan (612-625-1831; konstan@umn.edu). Feel free to contact him with questions or concerns.

If you agree to participate in this study, we will send you a copy of this sheet for reference.

**Informed Consent**

I have read and understand the information provided in this consent form. I have asked any questions I have and have received answers to those questions. I consent to participate in this user research.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_