**SMU-IRB: Participant Information Sheet and Informed Consent Form (Hardcopy/Online/Verbal)**

**Title of Research Study as it will be stated on the Informed Consent Form provided to participants:**

Interview on AI Software Quality Assurance

**Principal Investigator, Title, and Affiliation:**

**WANG Chenyu, Research Engineer, Singapore Management University \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Purpose of Research Study**

This study aims to address the gap in understanding how to effectively ensure the quality and reliability of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled software. In simple terms, we want to find better ways to test and evaluate AI technologies so that they perform consistently, safely, and accurately for users without causing any harm or unintended consequences. This is important as AI software becomes more integrated into our daily lives, impacting various industrial and personal decision-making processes.

While there have been significant advancements in quality assurance (QA) for traditional software systems, research on QA for AI software has not kept up at the same pace. Traditional software QA techniques and practices might not be fully applicable or adequate for AI software, as AI software often involve complex algorithms, learning processes, and dynamic behaviors that differ from that in classic software. Therefore, the proposed study seeks to develop and enhance our understanding of quality assurance methods specifically tailored for AI software, with a focus on identifying and promoting best practices within the industry, ensuring optimal performance and safety in real-world applications.

1. **Study Procedures and Duration**

1. \*\*Confirmation of Participation\*\*: Once you confirm your willingness to participate in the validation study, we will provide you with the online version of the MCQ, depending on your preference.

2. \*\*Completion of the Questionnaire\*\*: You will be asked to complete the questionnaire by indicating your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the identified principles. The questionnaire is designed to be intuitive and straightforward and your responses will be anonymous. We expect that it will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete, depending on your level of engagement with each question.

3. \*\*Return of the Questionnaire\*\*: If you choose the online version, you can submit your responses immediately upon completion via the Google Form.

4. \*\*Data Analysis\*\*: After we receive your responses, our team will begin analyzing the data. Please note that your responses will remain confidential and will only be used for the purposes of this study.

5. \*\*Completion of the Study\*\*: We aim to complete the entire validation study, including data analysis and report writing. Upon completion of the study, we will share a summary of the results with you if you express interest in knowing the findings.

Your participation at each stage is voluntary, and you are free to skip questions or withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. We appreciate your consideration to participate in this important research.

1. **Benefits of Study**

The study is expected to contribute to the scientific understanding of quality assurance methods specifically tailored for AI-enabled software. By identifying and promoting best practices, the research aims to ensure consistent, safe, and accurate AI performance, minimizing harm and unintended consequences. The findings will bridge the gap between traditional software QA techniques and AI software requirements, fostering the development of reliable and robust AI systems across different sectors. This will ultimately enhance innovation, efficiency, and safety in real-world applications, benefiting organizations and end-users alike.

1. **Compensation/Payment for Participation**

There will be no compensation for taking part in this study.

1. **Possible Risks and Discomforts**

There are no anticipated risks in this study beyond what one would typically experience in everyday life.

1. **Voluntary Participation**

Participants can withdraw from the study at any time before submitting by simply closing the browser window. You will not be able to withdraw from the study after you have submitted your responses as the survey responses are anonymous and we will not be able to identify your responses.

**Privacy of Research Data**

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only the Principal Investigator and his/her co-investigators will have access to the raw data.

Anonymized data from this study may be shared with qualified researchers or research institutions, where deemed appropriate, consistent with academic association, journal, or university policies. Any reports from this study will be done at the aggregate level, and/or with individual and company information anonymized or disguised, so that it would not be possible to identify participants or their companies.

**Confidentiality of Research and Personal Data**

Your participation in this study will involve the collection of Personal Data. “Personal Data” is data, whether true or not, about you which makes you identifiable - (i) from that data; or (ii) from that data and other information which an organisation has or likely to have access. Examples of Personal Data include, but is not limited to, your name, identification number, and email address.

Information and Personal Data collected for this study will be kept confidential. Your information and Personal Data collected as part of this research, to the extent of the applicable laws and regulations, will not be disclosed.

However, Regulatory Agencies, Singapore Management University (SMU), and the SMU Institutional Review Board will be granted direct access to your research records to check study procedures and data, without making any of your information public, where necessary for any investigations or proceedings.

By signing this Informed Consent Form, you (or your legal representative, if applicable) consent to (i) the collection, access to, use and storage of your Personal Data; and (ii) the disclosure of such Personal Data to authorised service providers and relevant third parties.

All Personal Data collected in this research shall be collected, used, and disclosed in accordance with the relevant data protection laws and Research Collaboration Agreements (if any). In the event of any publication regarding this study, your identity will remain confidential. Research data used in any publication will be kept for a minimum 10 years, from the date of publication, before being destroyed.

*(If data will not be transferred out of Singapore, please include the following)*

Any information containing your Personal Data that is collected for the purposes described in this Informed Consent Form will not be transferred out of Singapore.

By participating in this research study, you are confirming that you have read, understood and consent to Singapore Management University’s Personal Data Protection Statement available at <https://www.smu.edu.sg/privacy-statement> and (*the University of Victoria*) Personal Data Protection Notification available at (*https://www.uvic.ca/general-counsel/privacy-access/index.php*).

**UK or EU/EEA Data Subject to UK Data Protection Act (DPA) or European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), respectively**

*(Include this only for research subjected to the UK Data Protection Act (DPA) or the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This clause will apply only when the investigators are collecting Personal Data from research subjects who are located in the UK or the EU/EEA.)*

In addition to being regulated by the applicable Singapore Data Protection Laws, if data about you is collected within the United Kingdom, European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA) during your participation in this study, that data about you will also be subject to the Data Protection Act (“DPA”) or General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”).

The research team will collect information about you including (resident country, age, subordinate number, job occupation, application scenarios, highest degree, whether have research background, whether have traditional software engineering background).

This information will be retained for (*2 months*). You have the right to withdraw your data from the study at any time. To do so, please contact the Principal Investigator at (*chenyuwang@smu.edu.sg*). If you withdraw from the study, no new information will be collected about you or from you by the study team.

Your Personal Data will be treated in compliance with applicable data protection laws.

Your Personal Data needed for the research will be saved, analyzed, and if necessary, transferred outside of your country. Before the Study Site transfers your Personal Data, the study team will replace your name with a unique code and remove information that directly identifies you. This is called your “Coded Information” in this form. It is sometimes called “pseudonymised data” by data protection laws.

Singapore Management University and (*the University of Victoria*) using your Personal Data, including your Coded Information, may be based in countries other than your country, including Singapore. Data protection and privacy laws in these countries may not offer the same level of protection as those in your own country. Rest assured, Singapore Management University (SMU) and those working with SMU will take steps to maintain the confidentiality of your Personal Data.

**What are your rights?**

*(Include this only for research subjected to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or the UK Data Protection Act. This section will apply only when the investigators are collecting personal data from research subjects who are located in the UK or the EU/EEA.)*

The GDPR gives you rights (subject to relevant exceptions) relating to your Personal Data, including the:

* Right of access
* Right of rectification
* Right to erasure
* Right to restrict processing
* Right to object
* Right to data portability
* Right to withdraw consent (where consent is provided)
* Right to be informed
* Rights related to automated decision-making including processing

SMU respects the privacy of individuals, and recognizes the importance of the Personal Data you have entrusted to us, and believe that it is our responsibility to properly manage, protect, process, and disclose your personal data. We will process your personal data in accordance with the GDPR.

1. **Contact Details**

* For questions/clarifications on this study, please contact the Principal Investigator, Wang Chenyu, at email address chenyuwang@smu.edu.sg, and/or office/mobile number: +6593965944.

Or the PI’s Supervisor, A/Prof \_\_\_\_\_, at email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or office number +65 \_\_\_\_\_\_ .

* If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a participant in this research study, and wish to contact someone unaffiliated with the research team, please contact the SMU Institutional Review Board Secretariat at [irb@smu.edu.sg](mailto:irb@smu.edu.sg) or + 65 68281925. When contacting the SMU IRB, please provide the title of the Research Study and the name of the Principal Investigator, or quote the IRB approval number (IRB-23-065-E017-M1(523)).
* You will receive a copy of this participant information sheet and informed consent form for your records. or (For online study) Please bookmark or save a copy of this information sheet and informed consent form for your records.
* You can contact SMU’s DPO by email at [dpo@smu.edu.sg](mailto:dpo@smu.edu.sg) if you have complaints about the use of your Personal Data.

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**Title of Research Study:**

*(Same title as provided at the beginning)*

Interview on AI Software Quality Assurance

**Principal Investigator, Title, and Affiliation:**

*(For student PIs, please also include your Supervisor’s name, title, and affiliation)*

**WANG Chenyu, Research Engineer, Singapore Management University \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Participant’s Declaration:

[Delete the highlighted statement(s) that is/are not applicable to your research study]

I agree to participate in this research study and understand that participation is voluntary. I have fully discussed and understood the purpose and procedures of this study. I understand that refusal to participate at any point in time will involve no penalty.

I declare that I am at least 18 years of age.

[If the minimum age of consent to research varies to different countries’ requirements, amend the age accordingly]

If I am affiliated with Singapore Management University, I acknowledge that my decision to participate, decline or withdraw from participation will have no adverse effect on my status at or future relations with Singapore Management University.

I understand who will have access to the Personal Data provided, how the data will be stored, and what will happen to the data at the end of the research study.

I confirm that I have read, understood, and consent to the Singapore Management University Data Protection Statement on PDPA.

I agree to the < audio-recording > of my participation in the research. I understand that although my name will be not associated with the < audio-recordings > used in publication/presentation, I may still be identified.

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Participant’s Name and Signature Date

Principal Investigator’s Declaration:

I have explained and defined in detail the research procedures in which the participant (or Legal representative) signing this informed consent form clearly understands the nature, risk(s), and benefit(s) of his/her participation in this study.

I also declare that the data collected for this research study will be handled as stated above.

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Name and Signature of Investigator/ Date

Person obtaining consent