LANCASTER UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING

RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Reducing Addiction to Social Media

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Luke Jones

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INTRODUCTION

You will be taking part in a research study concerned with social media addiction.

We invite you to participate in a study that will involve the collection of verbal data. As participants to this study we invite you to test a new program and give your feedback.

It is important that you read and understand several principles that apply to all who take part in our studies;

a) taking part in the study is entirely voluntary;
b) personal benefit may not result from taking part in the study, but knowledge may be gained that will benefit others;
c) any significant findings will be discussed with you if you desire;
d) you may withdraw from the study at any time.

The nature of the study, the risks, inconveniences, discomforts, and other pertinent information about the study are discussed below. You are urged to discuss any questions you have about this study with the investigator before you sign this consent.

In accord with all of our research protocols, privacy will be fully protected and confidentiality maintained at all times.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE:

This research study is concerned with the biopsychosocial aspects of addiction often attributed to social media usage.

STUDY PROCEDURE:
You are being asked to participate in a study that will require your cooperation in one or more of the following:

Testing a computer application
Giving verbal feedback

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When writing the results from our interview into a project report or any other form of documentation, steps are taken to ensure anonymity for all those involved in the study. No personal details will be recorded. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times. Any recordings that are made are the property of the researcher and will be kept in a secure environment and destroyed at the conclusion of the research.

RISKS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY:

The risks of participating in this study are minimal.
It is the investigators' intention that your identity in these studies will remain confidential.
Your particular contribution to the study – what you disclose during the interview – will be anonymized.

BENEFITS:
There may be no personal benefit to you from participating in this project. However, some personal benefits of this research may include learning more about. …

We believe this work can make an important contribution to current debates on excessive social media use.

Future application design principles.
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COSTS AND COMPENSATION:

You will not be paid for participating in this study.

There is unlikely to be any cost - financial or other - to you for participation in the study.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

All information collected in this study belongs to the fieldworker and will be maintained in a confidential manner at Lancaster University. Nobody, other than the fieldwork researcher, will have access to the data. Any identifiable data (including recordings of participants' voices) on portable devices (eg audio recorders, etc) will be erased from it as quickly as possible and in the meantime the device will be stored securely. Any recordings will be destroyed at the end of the project. Although rare, it is possible that disclosure may be required by law. Otherwise, the information will not be disclosed to third parties without your permission. If the study is published, your name will be kept confidential.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT:

If you have further questions related to this research study, you may call the supervisor, Adrian Friday, Dept. of Computing and Communications, Lancaster University
Address: Computing Department, Infolab21, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4WA

You may also if you wish contact an independent person about this research – specifically, Adrian Friday, Head of School.
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