

## Participant Information Sheet

### Does Poor Testability Hurt? Exploring the Effects of Testability on Software Quality

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#### Invitation

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

#### What is the project's purpose?

We are researchers in the Software Systems Engineering Group at University College London, UK. This survey is an attempt to understand testability from software practitioners' perspective. Our study presents implications for both software developers and researchers.

#### Why have I been chosen?

This survey is open to anyone although it is primarily intended for people undertaking research involving software engineering. You must be 18 years old or older to participate. A participant is expected to have knowledge in software development using object oriented programming languages. The survey link was provided in online resources (e.g., email, twitter). You may have seen the survey advertised there or have been directed to it by someone else.

#### Do I have to take part?

Participating in this study is completely voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in the survey. If you do decide to take part you can download and print a copy of this [information sheet](#). You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without it affecting any benefits that you are entitled to.

The survey is hosted on UCL's MS Forms platform. It reveals questions as you proceed through the survey. You cannot save a partial response to return to later as no data is sent to UCL unless you submit the page using the Submit button at the bottom of the page.

If you choose to withdraw before submitting the survey you can simply close the browser tab or window: none of your data will be sent to UCL.

Once you have submitted the survey you will not be able to withdraw your data as we will not be able to identify which data is yours. Please note that the survey is anonymous. You can withdraw from the survey at any time simply by closing your browser tab or window.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you choose to take part, you confirm your understanding and consent to participate, and then to complete a fully anonymous online survey containing 14 questions about testability from software practitioners' perspective.

The consent question must receive a response (these are marked with “\*must provide value”) but all other questions are optional and the survey can be submitted without responding to any/all of them.

The survey has 14 questions and should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. All questions will appear below this information.

If you choose to submit your responses using the button at the bottom of the survey page, your data will be sent to UCL. You will then be offered the option of downloading your complete set of responses in PDF format (including this information and your answers to the consent questions) for your future reference.

The survey will be available to complete from the 1st September 2022 until the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2023 inclusive, after which it will be withdrawn.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We have not identified any specific disadvantages or risks to your participation (although you should ensure that you are able to safely use your computer and display screen equipment without risk of injury and in accordance with the local health and safety regulations that apply to you). Your answers are anonymous throughout the process and the data collected cannot be used to resolve your answers to you personally, even in conjunction with other data available on the web or elsewhere (unless you choose to reveal your participation and answers for your own reasons). We will not attempt to identify who has participated in the survey.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are no specific or immediate benefits to you in taking part. It is hoped that this work will go towards a better understanding of the way in which researchers think about the relationship between research ethics and repository data.

### **What if something goes wrong or I have a concern?**

If you wish to raise a complaint or concern about the research you may contact either of the Principal

Researchers, Prof. Federica Sarro (f.sarro@ucl.ac.uk) or Dr. Maria Kechagia (m.kechagia@ucl.ac.uk). If you feel that your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, you may contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

Data will be gathered anonymously. Neither the researchers nor anyone else will be able to identify you from your responses. The data will be retained for 10 years after the completion of the data collection period (i.e. ten years from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2023) in accordance with UCL's Records Retention Schedule. It will then be securely destroyed.

**What will happen to the results of the research project?**

We will use the results for academic research. The associated analysis may be published in full or in aggregate in conference papers, journal papers, magazine articles, technical reports, and on the web. It may also be presented at conferences and in seminars and other talks (which may be filmed for release on the web).

**Contact for further information**

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Federica Sarro (f.sarro@ucl.ac.uk) and Dr. Maria Kechagia (m.kechagia@ucl.ac.uk).

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering participating in this research study.**

This research project has been granted ethics approval (UCL/CSREC/R/7) by the Head of the Computer Science Department at UCL.