

Informed Consent to Participate in Research

Information to Consider Before Taking Part in this Research Study

Title: Languages and Tools for Specifying and Analyzing Data Security Policies for the ACDC system
Study # 3117

Overview: You are being asked to take part in a research study. The information in this document should help you to decide if you would like to participate. The sections in this Overview provide the basic information about the study. More detailed information is provided in the remainder of the document.

Study Staff: This study is being led by Jay Ligatti who is a professor at the University of South Florida. This person is called the Principal Investigator. Other approved research staff may act on behalf of the Principal Investigator.

Study Details: This study is being conducted online and at the University of South Florida's Engineering College and is supported/sponsored by the MIT Lincoln Laboratory. The purpose of the study is to determine how easy it is to use a new security policy tool. The study will ask for participants to create a few security policies using the new tool and briefly explain their confidence in doing so. The study will take between 50-75 minutes.

Subjects: You are being asked to take part because you have experience with computer systems and/or computer security.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to participate and may stop your participation at any time. There will be no penalties or loss of benefits or opportunities if you do not participate or decide to stop once you start.

Benefits, Compensation, and Risk: We do not know if you will receive any benefit from your participation. You will be compensated between \$10 and \$15 for your participation. This research is considered minimal risk. Minimal risk means that study risks are the same as the risks you face in daily life.

Confidentiality: Even if we publish the findings from this study, we will keep your study information private and confidential. Anyone with the authority to look at your records must keep them confidential.

Why are you being asked to take part?

You are being asked to take part in this study because of your experience or education with computer systems, information technology, or computer security. Professionals working in such fields are often required to create security policies to determine what is allowed and not allowed.

It is important that these policies are correct. Making it easier to write these policies will save professionals time and make it more likely that policies are created correctly. By creating policies in a new and existing language, you are helping us to determine the usability of these languages.

Study Procedures

The study will consist of a single session lasting 50-75 minutes. Before beginning the session, you will be provided a brief demographic survey. This survey will ask basic questions about you, such as your previous experience or education. During the session, you will be introduced to two policy-specification tools. This introduction will teach you how policies are formed at a high-level, and how they can be created using both tools.

After the training/introduction, you will be asked to create a few policies using one of the tools, then asked to create them using the other tool. The tool you are asked to use first will be random.

Once you have finished creating the policies, there will be a short exit survey to conclude the study. The survey will ask about your experience working with each of the tools. The surveys will be maintained for at least 5 years after the Final Report is submitted. Once the 5 years have passed, the surveys will be deleted.

Alternatives / Voluntary Participation / Withdrawal

You do not have to participate in this research study.

You should only take part in this study if you want to volunteer. You should not feel that there is any pressure to take part in the study. You are free to participate in this research or withdraw at any time. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits you are entitled to receive if you stop taking part in this study.

Benefits and Risks

You will receive no benefit from this study. This research is considered to be minimal risk.

Compensation

You will be compensated between \$10 and \$15 if you complete the scheduled study visit. The amount will depend on the number of correctly completed tasks. If you withdraw for any reason from the study before completion you will receive partial compensation for each task you complete.

Privacy and Confidentiality

We will do our best to keep your records private and confidential. We cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. Your personal information may be disclosed if required by law. Certain people

may need to see your study records. The only people who will be allowed to see these records are:

- The research team, including the Principal Investigator, study coordinator, and all other research staff.
- Certain government and university people who need to know more about the study. For example, individuals who provide oversight on this study may need to look at your records. This is done to make sure that we are doing the study in the right way. They also need to make sure that we are protecting your rights and your safety.
- Any agency of the federal, state, or local government that regulates this research. This includes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP).
- The USF Institutional Review Board (IRB) and its related staff who have oversight responsibilities for this study, and staff in USF Research Integrity and Compliance.
- Research team members at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, which is sponsoring this study.

It is possible, although unlikely, that unauthorized individuals could gain access to your responses because you are responding online. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. No guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet. However, your participation in this online survey involves risks similar to a person's everyday use of the Internet. If you complete and submit an anonymous survey and later request your data be withdrawn, this may or may not be possible as the researcher may be unable to extract anonymous data from the database.

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not include your name. We will not publish anything that would let people know who you are.

Identifiers might be removed and after such removal the information could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional informed consent from the subject or the LAR.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this study, call Jay Ligatti at +1-813-974-0908. If you have questions about your rights, complaints, or issues as a person taking part in this study, call the USF IRB at (813) 974-5638 or contact by email at RSCH-IRB@usf.edu.

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not let anyone know your name. We will not publish anything else that would let people know who you are. You can print a copy of this consent form for your records.

I freely give my consent to take part in this study. I understand that by proceeding with this

survey, I am agreeing to take part in research, and I am 18 years of age or older.

<https://acdc.cse.usf.edu/>