USER GUIDE

Misinformation Game

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2 INTRODUCTION

This is a Document designed to outline how the misinformation game product may be utilized. The purpose of this User Guide is to provide a quick overview of the capabilities of the Misinformation Game application. To view more in-depth documentation surrounding a particular topic please see the link below to access our **Quick Reference Documentation**:

https://github.com/TheMisinformationGame/MisinformationGame/tree/main/docs

3 HOW TO REGISTER AS A USER AND AS AN ADMINISTRATOR

3.1 REGISTER GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Before a user can be made into an administrator, they must first register with the application using their Google account. This means that a google account is necessary act as an administrator. This can be done by accessing the Admin Dashboard from the homepage by clicking the button in the centre.

Once you click the "Sign in with Google" button, there will be a popup that will allow you to select the google account you wish to register with. After this the user will be redirected to the Admin Dashboard.

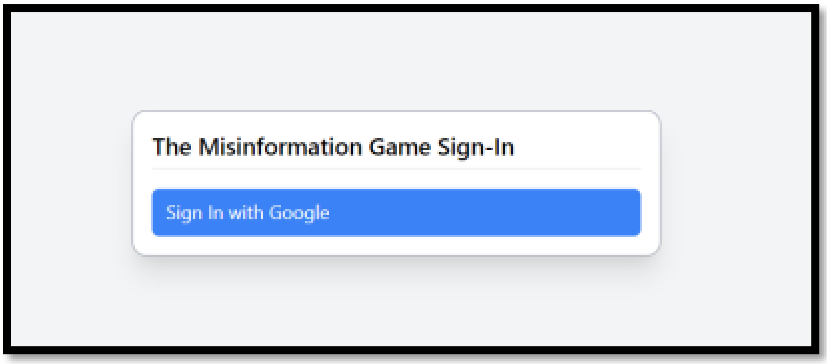


Figure 1: Sign in Page

3.2 REGISTER GET USER ID

You should now see the error "You are not registered as an admin". If you do not see this error, then you are already registered as an administrator. However, if you do see this message, you will need to be registered through the Firebase console.

To register yourself as an administrator, you will need to know your user ID. **Your User ID is displayed in the top-right of the admin dashboard underneath your name**. It should be a long string of letters and numbers that looks similar to *`rdp1zSjlgiMTAj4t42ve4sE84CvL`*.

Figure 2: No Admin Rights

You will then take your User ID and need to add it to the Firebase Authentication database. Should you not have access to the Firebase console, you will need to contact the Firebase Administrator and give them your User ID.

3.3 Add yourself as Administrator on Firebase console

You will then need to go to the firebase console that has been created for your project. Administrators are registered through the Firebase console through the **Firestore Database** tab on the left. If you are the first administrator to be registered, then you will have to create the **Admins** collection in Firestore.

Press the **+ Start collection** button in the Firestore Database tab. You will then be prompted to enter a Collection ID. Enter `Admins` as the Collection ID, and then press Next. **Please note that you may already have an Admins collection and that you do not need to make it twice.**

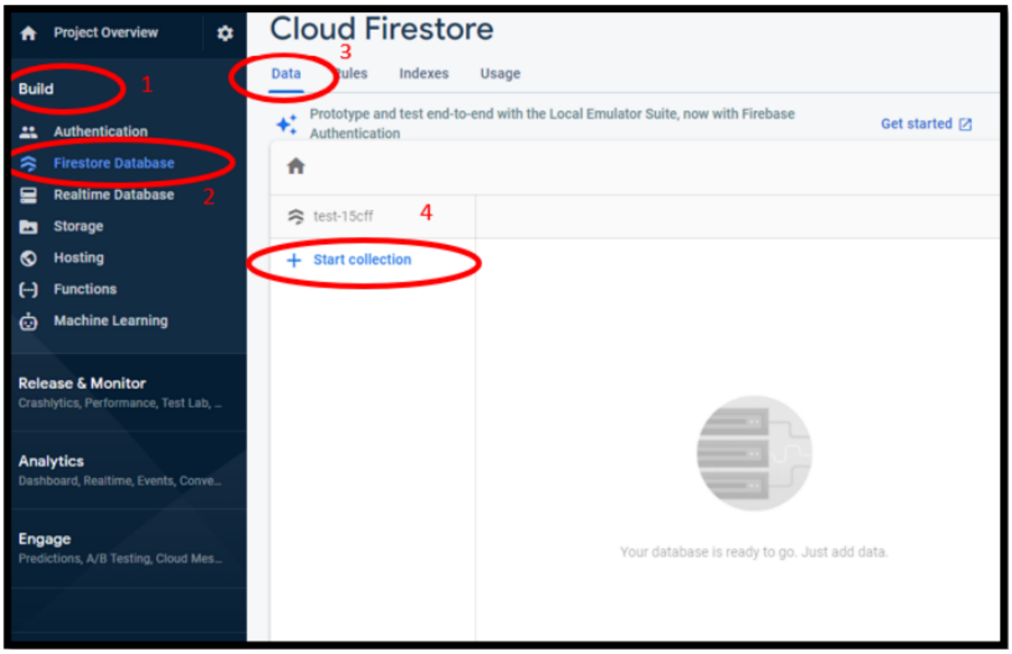


Figure 3: Find Firestore and make new collection

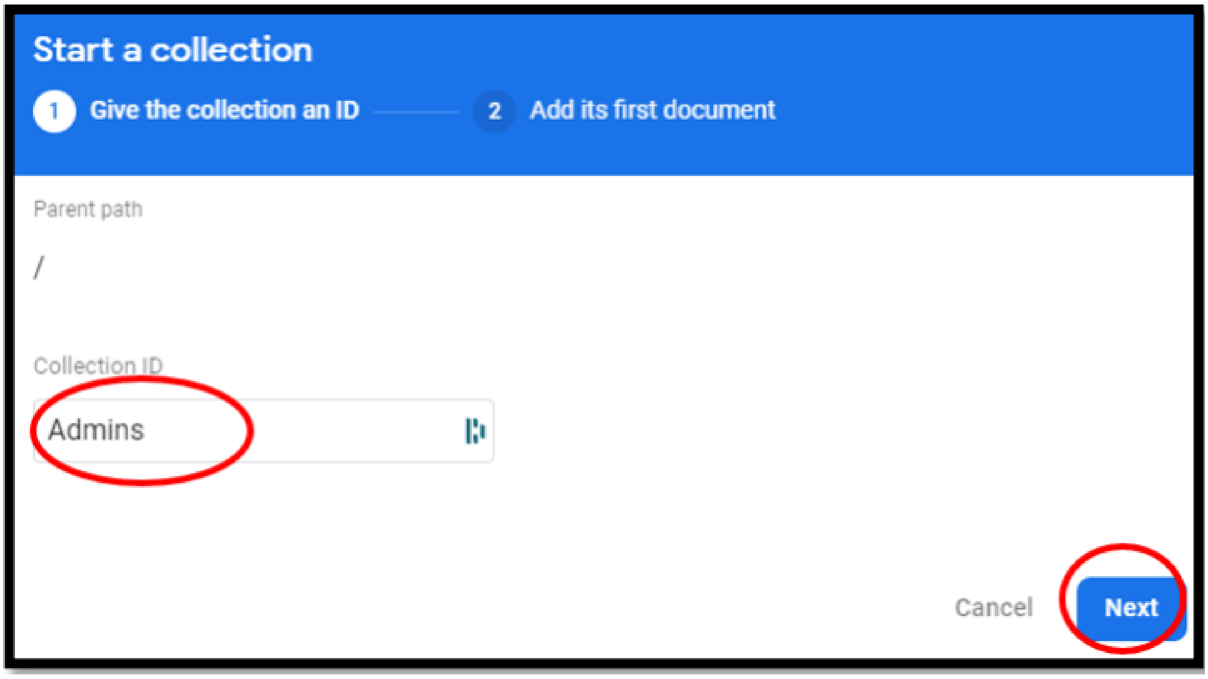


Figure 4: Make new collection

You will then be prompted to **Add its first document**. Enter your **User ID** in the **Document ID** field. Enter `Name` into the **Field** entry and enter your name as the **Value** for the field. The **Type** for the field should be set to `string`. Once you have entered the Document ID, Field, and Value, press **Save**.

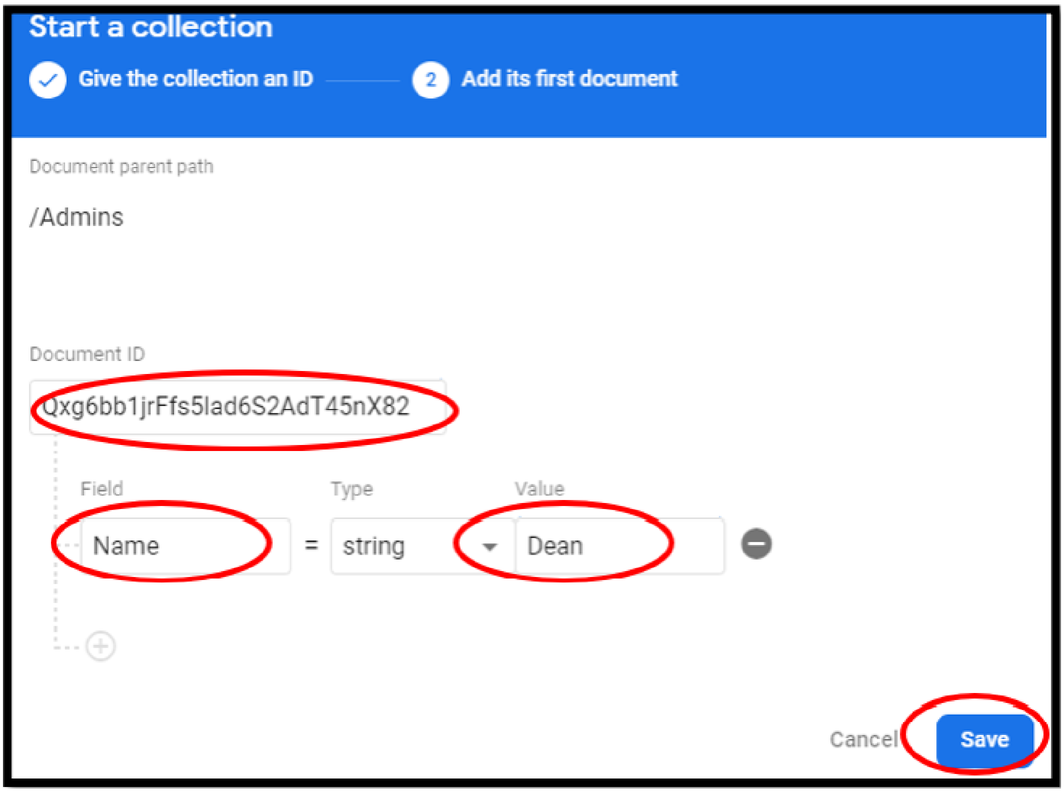


Figure 5: Add document

You should now be able to reload the admin dashboard, and the **You are not registered as an admin** error should be gone.

Additional administrators can be registered by selecting the **Admins** collection in the Firestore Database tab. Once selected, you should be able to click the **Add document** button in the second column.

You will then be prompted to **Add a document**. Enter the **User ID** of the user you wish to register in the **Document ID** field. Enter `Name` into the **Field** entry and enter the user's name as the **Value** for the field. The **Type** for the field should be set to `string`. Once you have entered the Document ID, Field, and Value, press **Save**.

The user should now be able to reload the admin dashboard, and the **You are not registered as an admin** error should be gone. You will see an Admin Dashboard like **Figure 6** below.

Figure 6: Registered Admin Dashboard

4 HOW TO CREATE AND UPLOAD A STUDY

New studies are created by uploading a spreadsheet to the app. **Note that only google sheets should be used to open the study template, using excel or another spreadsheet program may damage to underlying structure of the template**.

4.1 COPY SPREADSHEET TEMPLATE

The spreadsheet template can be accessed at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BeJ2krpg_lDG8dnq5n4Gqopin2NBhVbDyTDdsplbVUY

On the template, you will need to copy it. You can do this by clicking on **File > Make a Copy**. See **Figure 7**. After this you will prompted to name the document and chose a location for it. You can save it in any location and under any name.

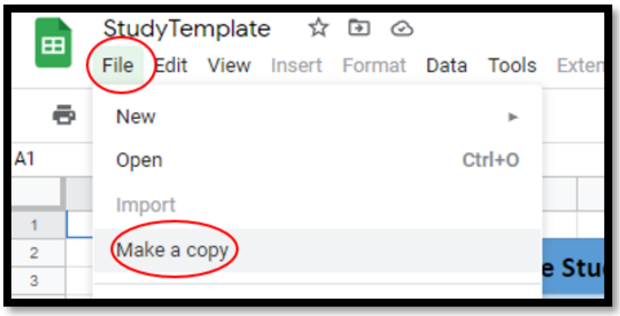
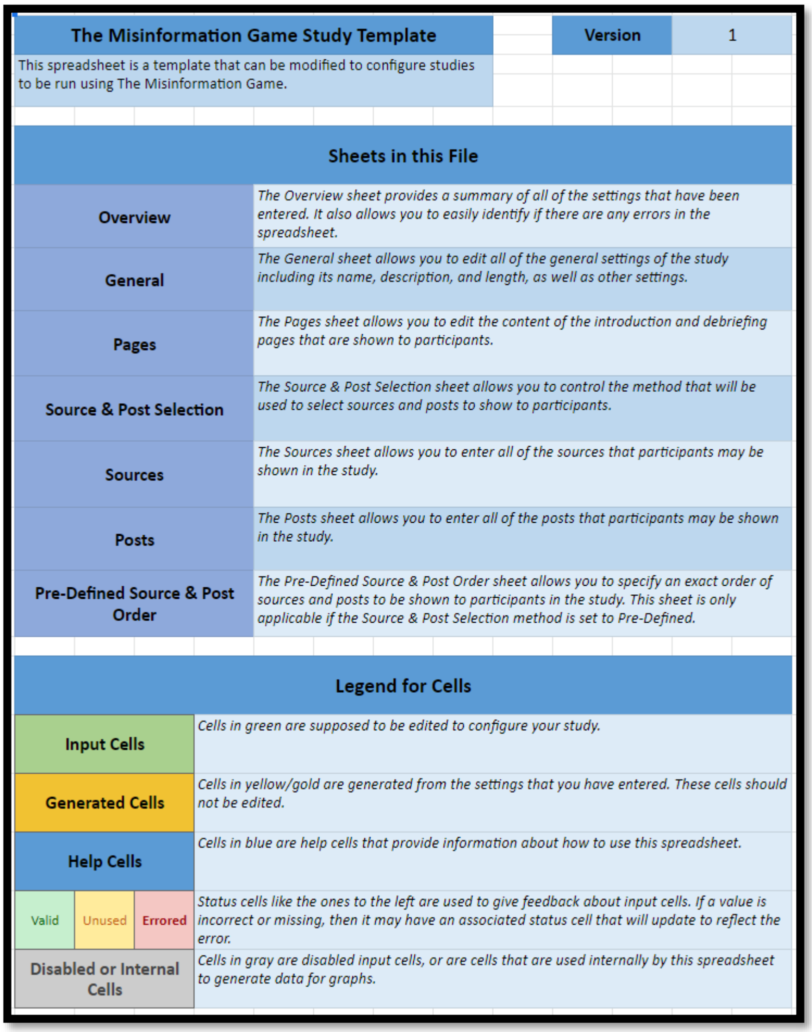


Figure 7: Copy template

4.2 EDIT SPREADSHEET TEMPLATE

Instructions to configure the spreadsheet are displayed in the template spreadsheet. Make sure to look in the various tabs at the bottom right. Follow the instructions in the "**about**" and "**overview**" tabs at the bottom of the google sheets to configure your study. When you are done ensure that there are no errors in the "overview" tab.



The Misinformation Game Study Template	Version	1
This spreadsheet is a template that can be modified to configure studies to be run using The Misinformation Game.		

Sheets in this File	
Overview	*The Overview sheet provides a summary of all of the settings that have been entered. It also allows you to easily identify if there are any errors in the spreadsheet.*
General	*The General sheet allows you to edit all of the general settings of the study including its name, description, and length, as well as other settings.*
Pages	*The Pages sheet allows you to edit the content of the introduction and debriefing pages that are shown to participants.*
Source & Post Selection	*The Source & Post Selection sheet allows you to control the method that will be used to select sources and posts to show to participants.*
Sources	*The Sources sheet allows you to enter all of the sources that participants may be shown in the study.*
Posts	*The Posts sheet allows you to enter all of the posts that participants may be shown in the study.*
Pre-Defined Source & Post Order	*The Pre-Defined Source & Post Order sheet allows you to specify an exact order of sources and posts to be shown to participants in the study. This sheet is only applicable if the Source & Post Selection method is set to Pre-Defined.*

Legend for Cells	
Input Cells	*Cells in green are supposed to be edited to configure your study.*
Generated Cells	*Cells in yellow/gold are generated from the settings that you have entered. These cells should not be edited.*
Help Cells	*Cells in blue are help cells that provide information about how to use this spreadsheet.*
Valid / Unused / Errored	*Status cells like the ones to the left are used to give feedback about input cells. If a value is incorrect or missing, then it may have an associated status cell that will update to reflect the error.*
Disabled or Internal Cells	*Cells in gray are disabled input cells, or are cells that are used internally by this spreadsheet to generate data for graphs.*

Figure 8: Study Template Instructions

After configuring your study and if there are no errors, you can download your study using the File tab at the top right and then hovering over download and then "Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)". This will save the study to a location on your computer.

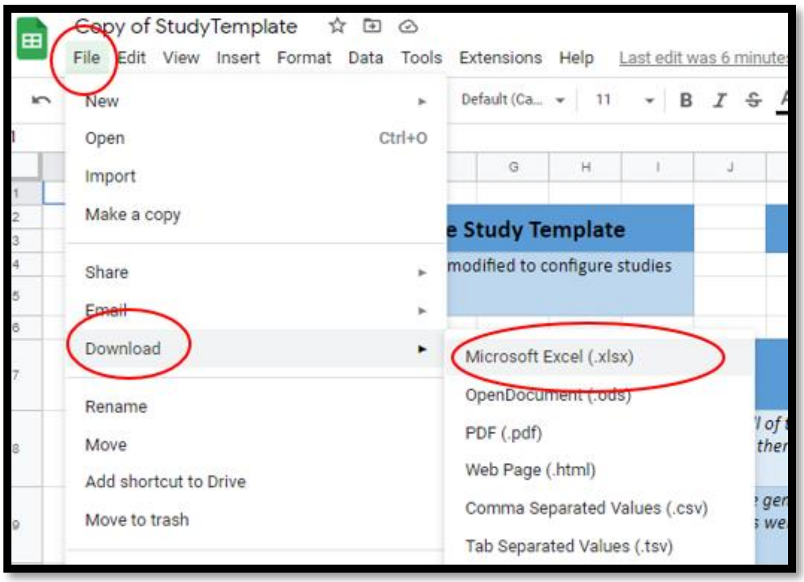
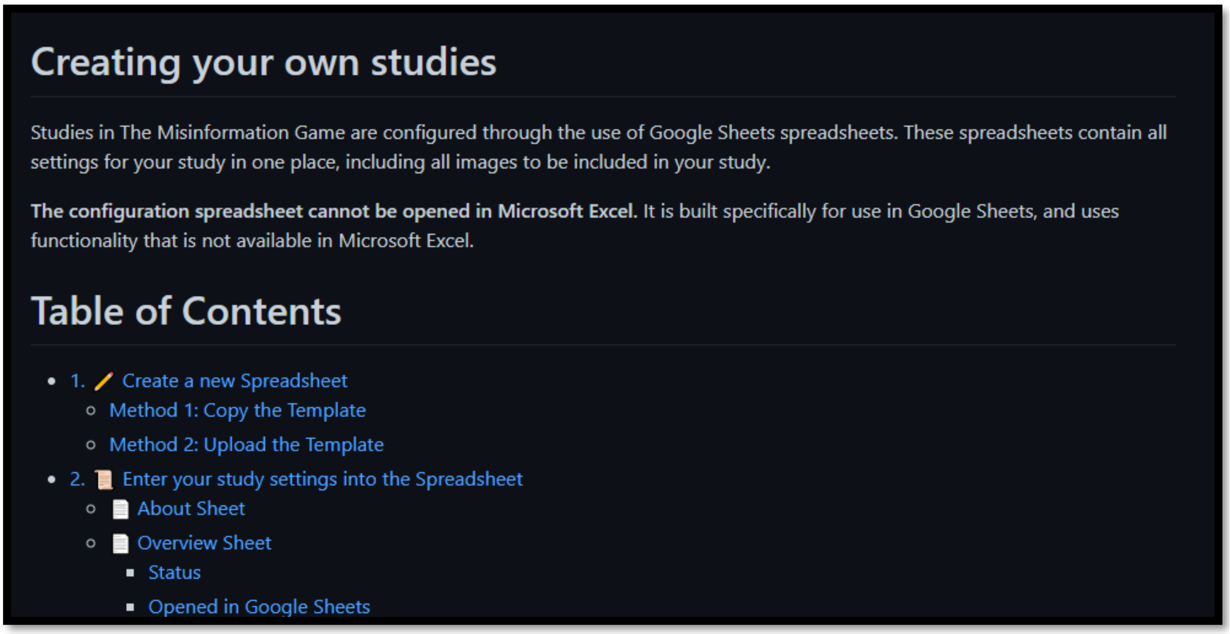


Figure 9: Download the configured study template

For more in-depth information about study configuration, please access our “Study Configuration” document at the below link:

https://github.com/TheMisinformationGame/MisinformationGame/blob/main/docs/StudyConfiguration.md



Creating your own studies

Studies in The Misinformation Game are configured through the use of Google Sheets spreadsheets. These spreadsheets contain all settings for your study in one place, including all images to be included in your study.

The configuration spreadsheet cannot be opened in Microsoft Excel. It is built specifically for use in Google Sheets, and uses functionality that is not available in Microsoft Excel.

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  - Overview Sheet
    - Status
    - Opened in Google Sheets

Figure 10: Study Configuration Document

4.3 UPLOAD STUDY

Your study will need to be in the form of an excel document. If your study is in the form of a google sheet you can download your study as an excel document using the "File" tab at the top right and then hovering over "download" and then "Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)". This will save the study to a location on your computer.

Navigate to the admin dashboard and click the "Upload New Study" button.

Figure 11: Admin dashboard

Click on the "Upload Spreadsheet" button that has appeared and select the study file you wish to upload. After you select the file that you would like to be uploaded, you will see your file loading progress. When it is finished uploading you will be directed to the details page of that study.

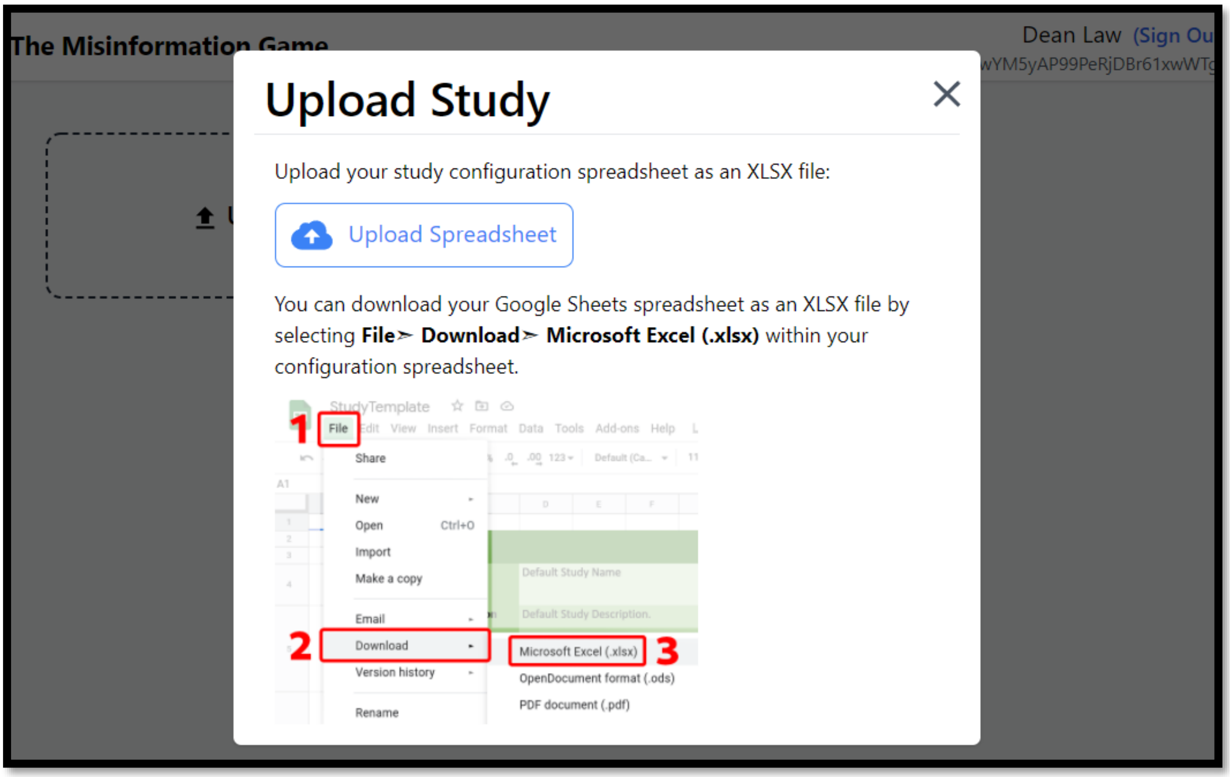

Figure 12: Upload Spreadsheet

After uploading a study, you will see a new widget appear, for that study in the Admin Dashboard.

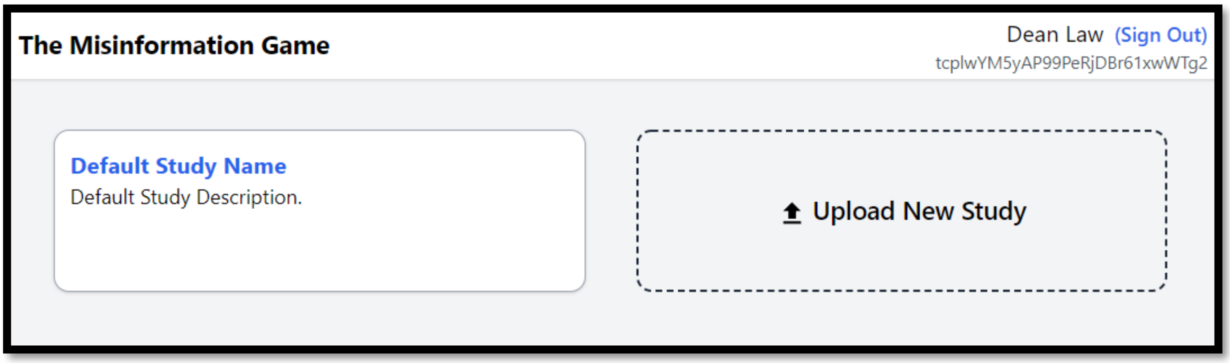

Figure 13: New study widget

5 HOW TO USE THE ADMIN CONSOLE

In the admin dashboard you should be able to see all of the studies that you have uploaded, in order of if they are active and the date that they were enabled. Clicking on a study will bring up the data associated with a specific study: the name, description, time of last editing and whether the study is enabled. A study being enabled means that others will be able to access it.

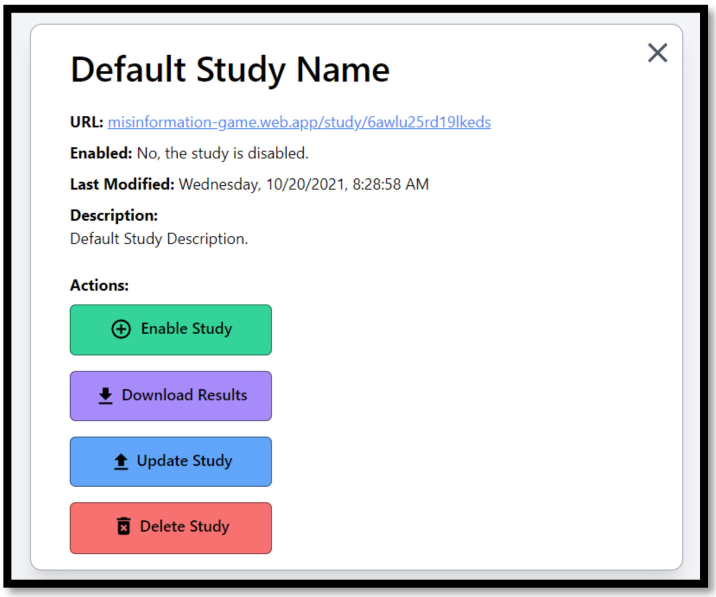

Figure 14: Study Details Screen

You can also:

- Click on the link at the top to play though a study. This link can be embedded into a survey for participants to access the game.
- Enable a study, which will allow others to access the game. This enables you to stop people from accessing the study after a period of time.
- Download the results of a study

- Update a study which works via the same process as uploading a new study, select the updated study from your computer and the study will upload and update
- Delete a study, which as suggested, will remove the study from your account.

6 6. How to play through a study

6.1 Start Game

To start the game, you will need a weblink which is available to you in the Details screen of a study.

Once you have clicked on the link, you should find yourself on the game identification screen. To proceed you will need to enter an ID. This can be any ID number as we do not have a method of accessing IDs from systems like Mturk or Qualtrics. The cross validation of participants is done through the completion code (more on this later).

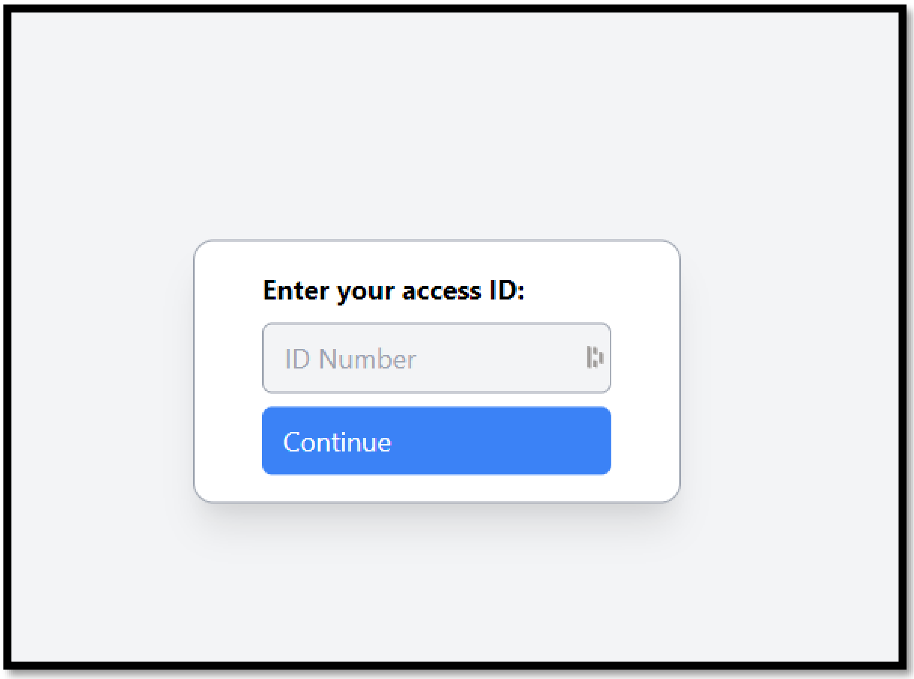

Figure 15: Enter ID

You should now find yourself on the game introduction screen. Read and familiarize yourself with the instructions and then click the "continue" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed. You will be shown a prompt. Read and think about that prompt and then click the "continue" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed.

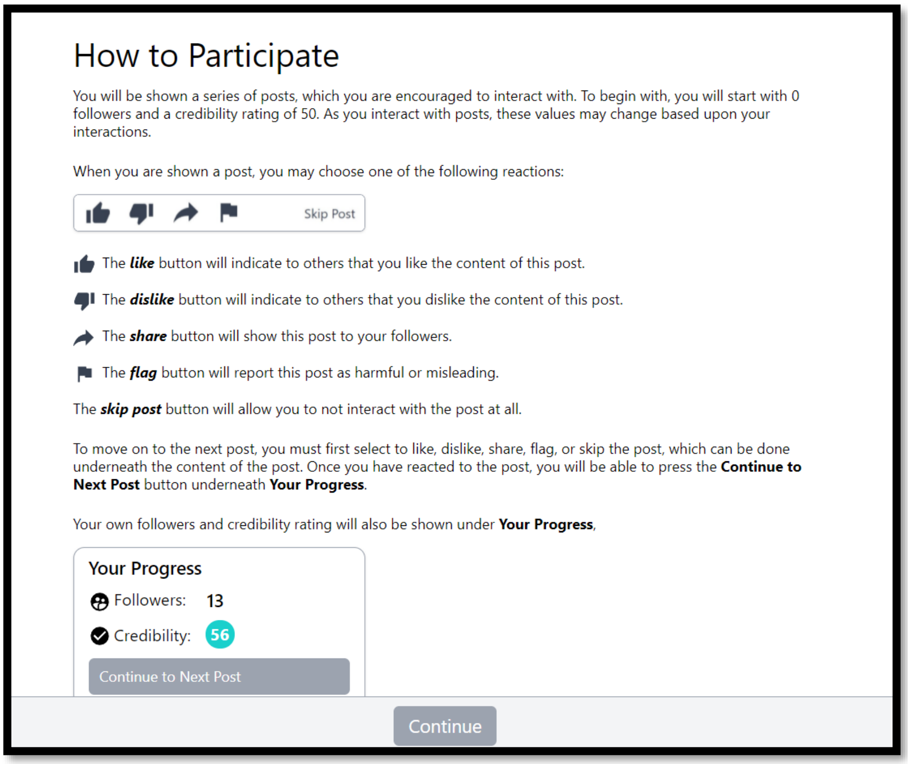

Figure 16: Instructions

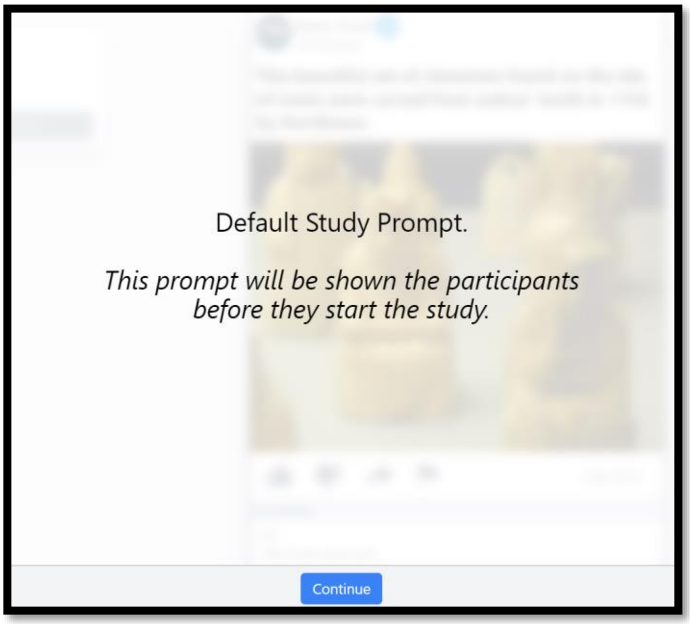

Figure 17: Prompt

6.2 PLAY THE GAME

When participating in a study you will have five options. These are the "like", "dislike", "skip", "share" and "flag" buttons on the bottom row. You can react to the post you are looking at with these options.

- The like button will tell everyone that you like this post.
- The dislike button will tell everyone that you dislike this post.
- The skip button will remove the post from your screen but will not tell your followers anything.
- The share button will show the post to your followers.
- The flag button will report the post. Use this for rule breaking or dangerous posts.

Figure 18: Reactions

Each time you react to a post you will likely increase or decrease your followers and credibility. Your followers count represents the number of people following you. The credibility percentage records how credible you are perceived to be.

When you look at the post itself you will see that there are users in the top left of both posts and comments. These users have credibility next to their name and the user who posted the top post will also have a number of followers displayed. Keep these numbers in mind when deciding how to react to a post.

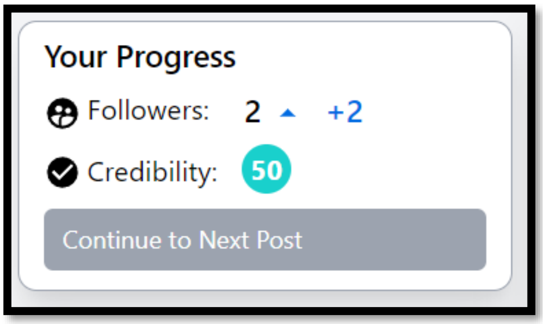

Figure 19: Your progress

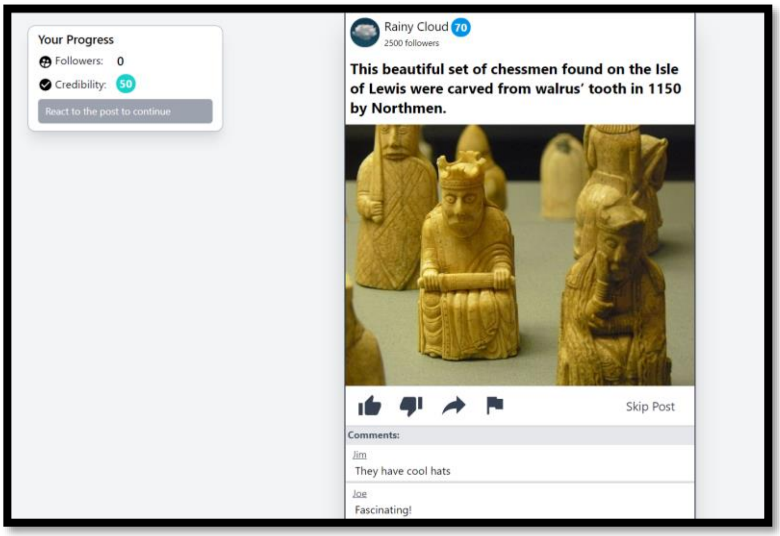

Figure 20: Full Game UI

6.3 DEBRIEFING

Once you have completed the study, you will be prompted that you have finished. After clicking “Continue” you should arrive at a debriefing screen. In **Figure 22,** the text “Debriefing after the game” can be replaced with any debriefing text that you would like. This is configurable in the Study Template.

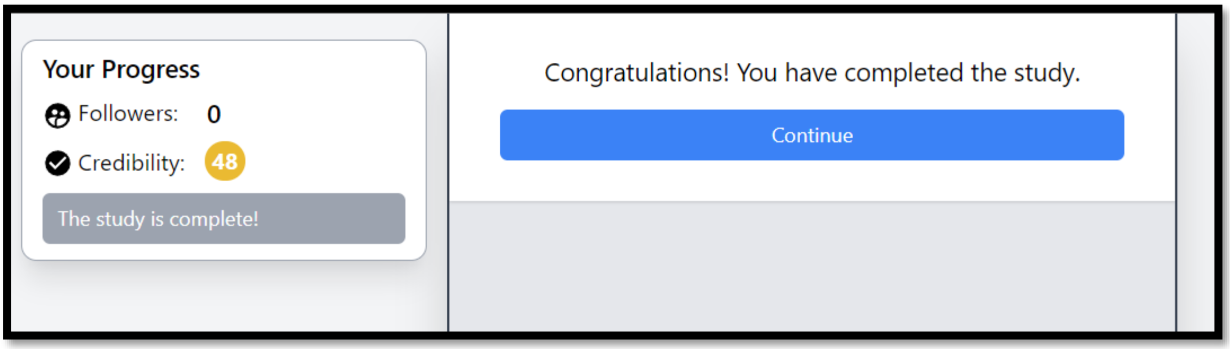

Figure 21: Done with simulation

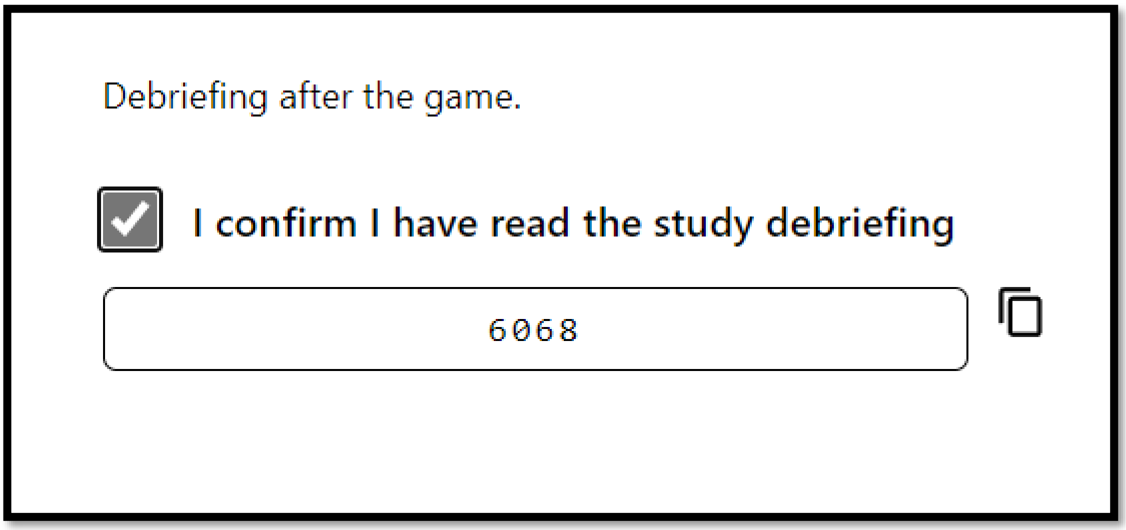

Figure 22: Debrief page

Once you have read the debriefing confirm that you have read the debrief by clicking on the checkbox end of the text and **copying the completion code**. This will be used to ensure that you have actually played through the game. It may be a good idea to leave the window open to ensure that you do not lose that number. You may click on the icon next to the number box to copy the number as well.

The completion code can be pasted into a survey to ensure that the game has actually been completed and can later be cross referenced to get the identity of a participant.

7 Results

After participants have played through a study you can download the results by clicking on the “Download results” button in the Admin Details of that study.

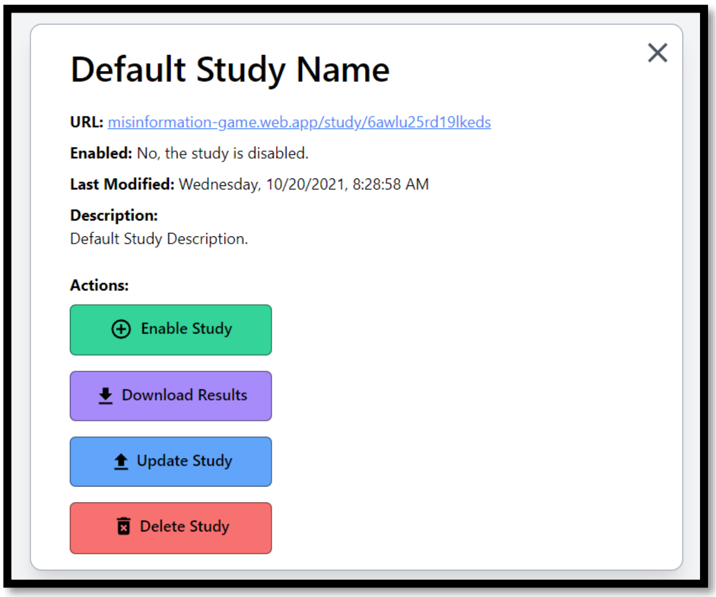

Figure 23: Admin details

After clicking the button, the results will be automatically downloaded to your computer in the form of an Excel file.

7.1 Data in the Results

Session ID: The session ID can be used to uniquely identify the reactions of a participant in their play-through of the game. The session ID is always available, and it is unique for every participant.

Participant ID: The ID that the participant entered when starting the study, or that was filled in for them through the URL. The participant ID is not guaranteed to be unique, as multiple participants could enter the same participant ID. It is also not guaranteed to be present if the study has been configured to not require identification.

Post Order: A number starting from 1 that represents when the participant was shown the post associated with this row of the results. For example, a Post Order of 1 would represent the first post shown to a participant, and a Post Order of 4 would represent the fourth post the participant was shown.

Post ID: The post identifier of the post that was shown to the participant. It is the same ID that was specified in the study configuration spreadsheet.

Source ID: The source identifier of the source that was shown to the participant. It is the same ID that was specified in the study configuration spreadsheet.

Source Followers: The number of followers of the source as shown to the participant for this post.

Source Credibility: The credibility of the source as shown to the participant for this post.

Participant Credibility Before: The credibility of the participant before they reacted to this post.

Participant Followers Before: The number of followers of the participant before they reacted to this post.

Participant Credibility After: The credibility of the participant after they reacted to this post.

Participant Followers After: The number of followers of the participant after they reacted to this post.

Reaction: The reaction that the participant chose for this post. This can be one of `like`, `dislike`, `share`, `flag`, or `skip`.

First Time to Interact (MS): The time from post onset to an initial response to the post being selected, in milliseconds. If the participant changes their reaction, this number will not change.

Last Time to Interact (MS): The time from post onset to the participant clicking continue, in milliseconds.

Credibility Change: The change to the participant's credibility after they reacted to this post.

Follower Change: The change to the participant's follower number after they reacted to this post.

Along side this data, there is a lot of metadata. The metadata concerns mostly the study and information about the study and also metadata about the participant. If you would like more detail about the results, please the documentation below:

https://github.com/TheMisinformationGame/MisinformationGame/blob/main/docs/Results.md

8 UPDATING THE SYSTEM

If there are changes to the coding repository, you can easily update your deployed version with the following bash command:

./update.sh

If you have not installed **Git Bash** and you are on Windows, see the below documentation for information on how to install Git Bash:

https://github.com/TheMisinformationGame/MisinformationGame/blob/main/docs/Installation_Walkthrough.pdf