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## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Improving Software Engineering Processes**

Name of researchers: Dr. Kelly Blincoe, Dr. Antonio Martini

#### **Researcher Introduction**

Dr. Kelly Blincoe is a Lecturer of Software Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Auckland. Dr. Antonio Martini is an Associate Professor at the University of Oslo.

#### **This Project**

**Rationale:** Software development has changed dramatically in recent decades. Thus, software practitioners likely face new challenges that are not well understood.

**Aims:** The research aims to better understand current challenges software engineers face in the software development process and investigates solutions for these challenges.

**Duration:** This research project will continue for 36 months.

**Benefits:** By participating in this research, you will help us better understand the current challenges software practitioners face in modern software engineering processes and identify strategies practitioners can take to overcome these challenges. This knowledge can help improve software productivity and quality.

**Risks:** Participation in this study is optional. No personally identifiable information will be published or distributed to any third parties.

**Other people:** No one else will have access to or use the data or results of this study.

#### **Invitation to Participate**

**Why:** You are invited to participate in this research because you work in the software industry.

**How:** To find potential participants, like you, we advertised for this study in online communities of software professionals.

**Voluntary participation:** Your participation is voluntary, and you may decline this invitation to participate.

#### **Project Procedures**

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete an online, anonymous survey. The expected time commitment from you is 10 minutes or less. You can choose to stop the survey at any time and do not have to give a reason for this.

## **Data Storage, Retention, Destruction and Future Use**

How: The researchers will collect data through the online, anonymous survey.

Where: Electronic data will be backed up and stored on the University of Auckland server.

How Long: The data will be stored indefinitely.

Destruction: After the minimum storage time (six years) has elapsed, if it is determined that the data is no longer needed, the data will be destroyed. Electronic data will be deleted.

## **Right to Withdraw from Participation**

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, you do not have to give a reason for this. If you choose to participate, you can withdraw at any time during the survey without giving a reason. After the survey, you can not withdraw your data since the responses are stored anonymously.

## **Anonymity and Confidentiality**

The preservation of confidentiality is paramount. The information you provide may be published in an academic conference and/or journal. This publication(s) will not identify you as its source. A copy of the research findings will be made available to you, if you wish, by providing your email address at the conclusion of the survey. Your contact details will not be given to any third-parties. You can also contact any of the researchers listed below if you would like to obtain a copy of the findings.

## **CONTACT DETAILS AND APPROVAL**

| Investigator names and contact details   | Head of Department name and contact details   |
|--|---|
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For any queries regarding ethical concerns you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Research Office, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09-373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: [ro-ethics@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ro-ethics@auckland.ac.nz).