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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET
Improving Software Engineering Processes

Name of researchers: Dr. Kelly Blincoe, Dr. Bogdan Vasilescu, Dr. Vladimir Filkov

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. Bogdan Vasilescu is an Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Vladimir Filkov is a Professor at University of California Davis.

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 and contributed to multiple GitHub projects in recent years.

How: To find potential participants, like you, we advertised for this study in online communities of software professionals and used publically available GitHub data.

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 a brief online questionnaire. The expected time commitment from you for this is 15 minutes or less. You can choose to stop the questionnaire at any time and do not have to give a reason for this. Since the survey is anonymous, completion of the questionnaire will be evidence of consent to participate.

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Data Storage, Retention, Destruction and Future Use
How: The questionnaire will be completed online.
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 questionnaire by not submitting your responses without giving a reason. After the questionnaire, you will not be able to withdraw your data since the questionnaire is anonymous.

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 on the questionnaire. 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
Dr. Kelly Blincoe Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering k.blincoe@auckland.ac.nz 09 923 4715 Dr. Bogdan Vasilescu, bogdanv@andrew.cmu.edu Dr. Vladimir Filkov, vfilkov@ucdavis.edu	Kevin Sowerby Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering kw.sowerby@auckland.ac.nz 09 923 8191

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.

Approved by the University Of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 2 August 2017 for three years. Reference Number 019726.