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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET
Improving Software Engineering Processes

Name of researchers: Aman Gupta, Dr. Kelly Blincoe

Researcher Introduction

Aman Gupta is a student at University of Auckland, pursuing his Master of Engineering Studies in Software Engineering. Dr. Kelly Blincoe is a Lecturer of Software Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Auckland.

This Project

Rationale: The software development process often causes stress for software practitioners. Thus, causing the professionals to not perform ideally in their respective fields.

Aims: Previous studies have found many causes for work-related stress (e.g., deadlines, social interactions, interruptions, unclear or unrealistic expectations). In this study, we are interested to find out specific causes of stress in software development and identify ways to help software developers manage their stress.

Duration: This research project will continue for 4 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.

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 asked interested software companies which are interested in finding out how stress is affecting their employes and how they can support their employees in managing their stress-levels.

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 diary daily for 1-2 weeks (which will take 10 minutes or less each day) followed up by one on one interview and completing a brief online questionnaire. The expected time commitment from you for the interview and survey is about 30 minutes or less. You can choose to stop participating in the diary study, interview, or online questionnaire at any time and do not have to give a reason for this.

Data Storage, Retention, Destruction and Future Use

How: The dairy and questionnaire will be completed online and the interviews will be either physically done or online using services like Skype.

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 study by not submitting your responses without giving a reason. You can also request that any data you have submitted be withdrawn within two weeks of submitting your responses to the online diary or questionnaire or participating in the interview.

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
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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.