

Appendix C(i): Participant Information Sheet and Research Consent Form Template

# Project title: Complex game world simulations with simple and abstracted player interaction (EMS6689)

# Researcher name(s): Avery Black

**This is an incomplete draft, key items not yet finalised in red below.**

What is the research about?

We invite you to participate in a research project investigating the effectiveness of different player interaction mechanisms for complex simulation games.

Do I have to take part?

This form has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you and you alone whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be free to withdraw at any time before submitting your final answers to the survey without providing a reason and without penalty. After answering the survey at the end of your participation it will no longer be possible to withdraw as all data is anonymized upon collection and your data will not be able to be identified for removal.

What will I be required to do?

To begin with you will be asked to play a game (you will be automatically linked to the game after consenting to this form). The game will explain its own rules and controls, we request that you try to play the game for at least five minutes though you may continue to play for as long as you wish. There will be a button at the bottom of the webpage with the game that you can click once you are done playing that will take you to a short survey about your experience that will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. All questions will be completely optional however we ask that you answer as many of the questions about your experience as you can.

How will you handle my data?

Your data will be stored in an anonymisedform and will only be accessible to the researcher Avery Black (1803315@abertay.ac.uk), and project supervisor William Kavanagh (w.kavanagh@abertay.ac.uk). This means that nobody including the researchers could reasonably identify you within the data. Your data will be stored in a secure location, with data fully anonymised at the point of collection. Your responses are treated in the strictest confidence - it will be impossible to identify individuals within a dataset when any of the research is disseminated (e.g., in publications/presentations). Abertay University acts as Data Controller (DataProtectionOfficer@abertay.ac.uk).

Retention of research data

Researchers are obliged to retain research data for up to 10 years’ post-publication, however your anonymised research data may be retained indefinitely (e.g., so that researchers engage in open practice and other researchers can access their data to confirm the conclusions of published work). Consistent with our data retention policy, researchers retain consent forms for as long as we continue to hold information about a data subject and for 10 years for published research (including Research Degree thesis).

# Consent statement:

Abertay University attaches high priority to the ethical conduct of research. Please consider the following before indicating your consent on this form. Indicating your consent confirms that you are willing to participate in the research, however, indicating consent does not commit you to anything you do not wish to do and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time. You are indicating consent under the following assumptions:

* I understand the contents of the participant information sheet and consent form.
* I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the research and have had them answered satisfactorily.
* I understand that my participation is entirely voluntary and that I can withdraw from the research (parts of the project or the entire project) at any time without penalty and without having to provide an explanation.
* I understand who has access to my data and how it will be handled at all stages of the research project.

I consent to take part in this study conducted by Avery Black who intends to use my data for further research examining the effectiveness of different player interaction mechanisms for complex simulation games:

# Signature:

**I confirm that I am willing to take part in this research:**

# DATE:

# You can find our procedure for complaints (regarding research projects) and our privacy notice and legal basis for processing research data at: <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>