

Consent Form

Human-Computer Interaction Course Projects

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You are being invited to participate in a study affiliated with the McGill University course “Human-Computer Engineering” (ECSE 424/524). Please note that we are seeking students aged 18–24 represent a demographic that frequently engages in prolonged social media usage.

Purpose: This project focuses on designing and evaluating a mobile application that monitors app usage and delivers time-based notifications to reduce excessive doomscrolling behavior. The study will involve observing participants’ phone usage patterns, collecting data on their screen time, and assessing how different types of notification stimuli influence their scrolling habits.

What you will be asked to do: After you have read this document, I/we will respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. Once you have signed this consent form, you will be asked to:

- provide information as part of a screening process to verify your eligibility for the study
- complete a questionnaire
- answer interview questions
- be observed while performing a routine activity (e.g., finding directions using online maps)
- interact with physical objects (e.g., a paper prototype)
- interact with digital systems (e.g., a laptop)

The following cloud-based platforms may be used for collection, storage, or processing of personally identifying information, including audio recording, video recordings, and/or photographs of participants:

- Microsoft OneDrive for Business
- Microsoft Teams
- ...

Your participation in these activities is completely voluntarily. You may choose not to take part in any activity, or not to respond to any question.

Each experimental session should take about 25 minutes. There will be a total of 2 sessions throughout the semester. You may be asked to participate in more than one such session, but you are not obligated to do so.

The sessions may also be video and/or audio recorded. You have the option not to be video/audio recorded.

How the data collected will be used: Data collected (including any audio/video recordings) will be used for analysis and may also be used for class project presentations and other research presentations. Only the student researchers, TAs, instructor, and in the case of graduate projects, the student's graduate supervisor, will have access to these materials.

Although only a course project in its current form, this project may, at a later date, be extended by one or more of the student investigators to form the basis of their thesis research and/or be submitted as a research publication. You have the right to consult your study file in order to verify the personal information gathered, and to have it corrected if necessary, by contacting Patricia Sharleen patricia.sharleen@mail.mcgill.ca.

Compensation: There is no compensation for participating in this study.

Confidentiality: The results of your participation will be reported without any reference to you specifically. Please note that while the collected data will be stored in Canada, it may leave Quebec.

Your data will be treated confidentially and your identity will not be revealed in reporting the study results, with the exception of video/audio recordings that may be presented as part of an in-class presentation. However, if such recordings are to be used in any other venue, such as a scholarly conference, this will require that participants be non-identifiable in the video/images.

Data Retention: Identifiable data and video/audio recordings will be stored securely on a password protected computer account or Microsoft OneDrive for Business. All digital data will be encrypted. All data from individual participants will be coded so that their anonymity will be protected in any reports, research papers, thesis documents, and presentations that result from this work.

Withdrawal from the Study: You may withdraw from the study at any time and request that your data be deleted. However, in most cases, by the end of the semester, after analysis of the data has been completed, or the results of the study reported, or after the keyfile that links your identity to the data has been destroyed, it may no longer be possible to delete your data. We expect to delete the keyfile within **3 months** of the study.

Contact for information about the rights of research subjects:

Should you have any questions about this study, you may contact the course instructor, Prof. Jeremy Cooperstock at jer@cim.mcgill.ca or by telephone at 514-398-5992.

If you have any ethical concerns or complaints about your participation in this study, and want to speak with someone not on the research team, please contact the Research Ethics Board Office, at Daniel.tesolin@mcgill.ca or 514-398-5410, citing REB file number 25-08-071.

Indicate your agreement to **one** of the following options by providing your **initials**:

- I consent to being video/audio recorded for this study. PvO
- I consent to being audio recorded only (no video) for this study. _____
- I do NOT consent to being video/audio recorded for this study. _____

Please sign below if you have read the above information and consent to participate in this study. Agreeing to participate in this study does not waive any of your rights or release the researchers from their responsibilities. Your signed form may be returned electronically by email to patricia.sharleen@mail.mcgill.ca

Participant's Name: (please print) Polly van Oort

Participant's Signature: Polly van Oort Date: 10/17/2025
