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On or Off Track: Study S6 (Public/Private) (#64213)

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This is an anonymized copy (without author names) of the pre-registration. It was created by the author(s) to use during peer-review.
A non-anonymized version (containing author names) should be made available by the authors when the work it supports is made public.

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

Participants with an intact streak of playing games will be more likely to continue using the app (vs. switch to viewing funny content) than participants with a broken streak. We are unsure of what the moderating role of making streaks public vs. private may be.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Choice between continuing to play a Word Jumble on the app vs. switch to viewing funning online content.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

2(streak: intact or broken) x 2(public or private) btwn subjects

All participants are told they are testing out a game app, and complete 4 word jumble games and then 1 number sum game. These games are either categorized as an intact streak (because all games count towards a 'game tracker' on the app) or a broken streak (because only word jumbles count towards the game tracker).

We also will manipulate whether participants are told that their progress on the game tracker will be private, and not shared with anyone, or public, and displayed to future users.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

Chi square analysis with streak condition and choice for what to do after the 5 games (i.e., continue or switch).

We will also conduct a binary logit with streak condition, public/private condition, and their interaction predicting this choice, and separate chi-square tests to examine the effect of streak condition within the public and private conditions separately.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will include all participants who complete the study.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We are recruiting 600 participants on MTurk (150 per cell).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We will also ask the following questions:

1. To what extent did you have a goal of maintaining a streak of playing games? (1 Not at all to 11 Very Much); we expect participants with an intact streak to have more of a goal of maintaining their streak than participants with a broken streak. We expect this to mediate the effect of streak on choice.
2. 4 emotion questions (how happy, excited, sad, and upset they feel).
3. If participants would be willing to watch an ad to repair their streak (broken condition) or keep their streak intact (intact condition) if they were to continue using the app in their day-to-day lives.
4. If participants would recommend this app to a friend.
5. If participants would continue using the app themselves.

We will also ask 2 manipulation checks to ensure the validity of our public/private manipulation.