FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH ETHICS APPROVAL

Version 4 - FINAL – 27/01/15

All researchers should be familiar with the University's Research Ethics Policy and associated procedures, available here. No element of a research project which falls under the scope of the Policy should begin before written approval has been given.

All research projects are subject to ethics approval. This form enables researchers to either:

1) declare a project out of scope. The form incorporates a short cut for this.

2) provide more detail on ethical considerations. Research ethics approval is required for research projects that:

- directly involve people in research activities, through their physical participation, eg. interviews, questionnaires, surveys, observational research, requiring the active or passive involvement of a person;
- indirectly involve people in the research activities, through their provision of or access to personal data and/or tissue
- involves people on behalf of others (eg. legal guardians of children and the psychologically or physically impaired and supervisors of people under controlled environments (eg. prisoners, school pupils).

There are special arrangements for research in the health and when it involves animals, and guidance should be sought direct from the Committee in these cases.

Convening an event, such as a conference or workshop, only requires research ethics approval where research takes place, eg. leading to an identifiable research output, and only that specific part of the event where the research is taking place.
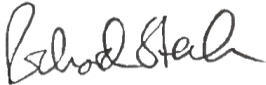
Please note that all events (seminars, conference, workshops, etc) should be discussed with your Director of Department taking into consideration any professional ethics or reputational concerns.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, YOU SHOULD ASSUME RESEARCH ETHICS APPLIES. IN THIS CASE SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMITTEE BEFORE CONTINUING.

Part A – Overview of the project						
1	Title of the project	Improving Client-Side Prediction Methods in Networked Multiplayer First-Person Shooter Games with Experiential Data				
2	Briefly summarise the project's aims, objectives and methodology	To propose and investigate an alternative method of client-side prediction other than dead reckoning. The proposed method *led reckoning* will use trends found from replay data to influence the packet update conditions of client-side prediction using dead reckoning. Parsed replay data found online from the Counter Strike Global Offensive game's eSport community will form both the test data and the experiment subject data. Experiments will be formed of re-enacting the experiment subject's path and running a dead reckoning and a led reckoning client-side prediction simulation upon the data before comparing the results. The experiment will look at the total number of packet updates that each prediction method requires, and the overall prediction model error in prediction compared to the actual experiment subject's position for every frame.				
3	Start and end dates	January 2019 – May 2019				
4	Principal Investigator	Title: Mr Name: Richard Steele Department: BSc Computing for Games				
5	Other key investigators	Title	Name	Post	Role in project	Organisation	Department
		Mr	Gareth Lewis	Lecturer	Supervisor	Falmouth University	Games Academy
Part B – Does the project require research ethics approval?						
6a	Does any part of the project constitute research, ie. a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared (eg. identifiable research output)? If you answer No to this question please provide a rationale here (max 100 words)	☑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't know If Yes or don't know, continue to 6b. If No, the project is out of scope. Go direct to 18a.				
6b	Does your research involve participants of any type, ie. humans or animals, directly or indirectly? Review the questions in Part C as a guide	☑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't know If Yes or don't know, continue to Part C. If No, the project is out of scope. Go to direct to 18a.				
Part C – Details of the research						

7	Give a brief reflection/overview of the ethics issues in this project.	Replay files from competitive eSports matches for the game Counter Strike Global Offensive are downloaded from an eSports reporting and statistics website. These are processed for general in-game movement trend data.
8	Who will the participants be? Identify specifically any vulnerable groups or individuals and address any special measures you intend to take to accommodate them	The publicly available replay data contains only the in-game handle as identifying information. No real names or information that can be used to identify the players' identities are available.
9	How will participants be recruited and how many will be involved?	161 replay files are used, with 10 players per side
10	What will participants be asked to do?	Nothing. The data being collected is from replay data of previous games that players have made available online.
11	What potential risks to the interests of participants do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? A participant's interests include their physical and psychological well-being, their commercial interests; and their rights of privacy and reputation	None. The only player specific information available is their in-game player name which is cannot be used to identify the player any more than they have themselves allowed in other publications.
12	Will you be obtaining personal information from any of the participants? E.g. name, personal opinions, address, recorded images or audio, date of birth, notes and observations.	Yes. The in-game player name that the player uses. This player name is not published in the study, and a numerical identifier is instead used to distinguish the player in the raw data. **If you answer 'Yes', please give details. In your response, please consider:** How will you store and use this information during the course of your research? What parts of this information will need to be confidential and how? Will you exhibit or publish the information? Will you retain information after the research is concluded? If information is to be destroyed, explain why this is appropriate.
13	What potential risks to yourself or other members of the research team do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? Eg. does your research raise issues of personal safety for you or others involved in the project, especially if taking place outside working hours or off University premises	None
14	What potential risks to the environment do you foresee	*None*

	and what steps will you take to minimise those risks, eg. does your research involve plants or soil	
15	Will payments or in-kind contributions be made to participants?	❏ YES ☑ NO *If YES, please state amount and whether payment is for out-of-pocket expenses, or a fee*
16	If the project is to receive financial support (real or in-kind) from outside the University, please give details, including any restrictions that have been imposed upon the conduct of the research. Please discuss this with RIO. Financial propriety, protection of commercial rights and reputation are important for you, the University and other third parties (eg. sponsors, participants etc.)	*NA*
17	Will any restrictions be placed on the publication of results?	❏ YES ☑ NO *If YES, please state the nature of the restrictions, (eg. details of any confidentiality agreement)*
18a	Declaration of Principal Investigator if activity is out of scope	I confirm that the form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and it does not fall under the scope of the Research Ethics Policy. Signature: Date:
18b	Declaration of Principal Investigator if activity is in scope	I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the University's Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines on Good Research Practice and, where externally funded, with the terms and conditions of the research funder. In signing this form I am also confirming that: a) The form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. b) There is no potential material interest that may, or may appear to, impair the independence and objectivity of researchers conducting this project. c) I undertake to conduct the project as set out in the application unless deviation is agreed by the University and to comply with any conditions.

		d) I agree to keep all ethics issues in the project under review and to re-submit a new application for ethics approval should any new issue arise or significant change occurs. e) I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the University. f) I have included the following documents: ☑ An information sheet (compulsory) ☑ A consent form (compulsory) ☑ Copy of the full proposal/application (compulsory) ❑ Other relevant information Signature: Date: 28/11/2018
19	Support from Director of Department	I have reviewed the project with the applicant and confirm it either does not fall under the scope of the Research Ethics Policy or I support it. Full Name: Signature: Date:
20	REC use only	