

Dear [Participant],  
I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Taher Ghaleb. I am a Ph.D. candidate at Queen's University, Canada under the supervision of Prof. Ying Zou (ying.zou@queensu.ca). I am inviting you to participate in a survey study about Continuous Integration (CI) practices, since you have been contributing to open source GitHub projects that adopt Travis CI. We have used the GitHub API to obtain the public email address associated with the commits you pushed to public GitHub repositories. We apologize in advance if our email is unwanted or wasting your time.

This study helps us better understand two major CI build problems in which builds may (1) take too long to generate, i.e., long build durations, or (2) fail frequently. We want to understand how software developers maintain a balance between mitigating long CI build durations and frequent build failures. The outcome of this study is to provide recommendations to software practitioners (i.e., developers) regarding the most appropriate actions to control the possible side effects between reducing CI build durations and frequent build failures.

There are **no mandatory questions** in our survey and it will **approximately take 15-20 minutes** of your time. There are no known risks to this study. To participate in our survey, please **click on the following link**: [https://queensu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ahpQLcMb2VOOKIS](https://queensu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahpQLcMb2VOOKIS)

To compensate you for your time, you may win a \$10 Amazon gift card if you complete the full questionnaire. We are offering these gift cards to 30% randomly drawn participants who complete the questionnaire and share their contact information to receive the prize if they win. You will also be asked to share your contact information if you are interested in a follow-up interview study. We would also be happy to share the results of this research with you, so if you are interested, you may need to check the website of our research lab (<https://seal-queensu.github.io>) on which information about the research findings can be found.

If you have any questions about this survey, or difficulty in accessing the site or completing the survey, please contact Taher Ghaleb at [taher.ghaleb@queensu.ca](mailto:taher.ghaleb@queensu.ca). Thank you in advance for your time and for providing important feedback to our study.

Any ethical concerns about the study may be directed to the Chair of the General Research Ethics Board at [chair.greb@queensu.ca](mailto:chair.greb@queensu.ca) or 1(844)535-2988 (Toll-free in North America). Use 1(613)533-2988 if outside North America. Please note that GREB communicates in English only.

**DISCLAIMER:** We have no affiliation with any social, business, or commercial entities. This is a one-time request for your voluntary participation in an academic survey. We will not be contacting you again.

Best regards,  
Taher Ghaleb  
PhD Candidate  
Queen's University  
Canada