

## Electronic Study Information Page

**Study Title:** Blocking robocalls with automated machine learning interpretation of content

**Protocol #:** 4809

**Please read this study information sheet carefully before you decide to participate in the study.**

**Purpose of the research study:** The purpose of the study is to detect robocalls using machine learning techniques in order to efficiently detect spam and robocallers through brief voice interactions. The knowledge gained from this study can be applied to a more robust detection system that effectively thwarts a much greater number of these type of calls.

**Participant requirements:**

- (1) Age 18 and older
- (2) Literate in English
- (3) Have Android smartphone running Android version 7.0 (API 24) or later
- (4) Have T-Mobile as carrier

**What you will do in the study:** In this study, you will need to perform three tasks to fulfill the minimum requirements. First, you will need to answer a very brief survey to provide us with basic demographic information. Second, you will need to download and set the Custom Phone Dialer Android app as your default phone app. Third, you will need to forward *at least* one unwanted phone call using the app. This action will, upon the phone call ending (i.e. The phone finishes ringing), forward the caller to our servers to interact with your unwanted caller. This interaction is the data we seek to collect. To be clear, our server will *not* be interacting with you; it will interact with the entity who called you. All you will have to do is pass on this call. Upon completion of these three tasks, you will notify us so we may distribute your compensation. Prolific participants will message us using the prolific platform, and offline participants (non-Prolific participants) will email us at [mrcrobcalltranscripts@gmail.com](mailto:mrcrobcalltranscripts@gmail.com). You will be provided step-by-step on how to complete these tasks later in the study.

\* Note 1: that you may skip any survey question that makes you uncomfortable and that you may revoke consent at any time during the study.

\* Note 2: If you email us at any address, we will not retain this or any other personally identifiable information. It will be used only for the purposes of compensation.

**Time required:** The study will require about 20 minutes.

**Risks:** The only risk is that you may forward a caller who asks for your name. Since we are saving transcripts to our database, that would mean that your name would end up in the database too. To alleviate this issue, we will preprocess the information manually and remove any personally identifiable information from the phone transcripts. There are no other anticipated risks in this study.

**Benefits:** There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research study. However, the study may help us design a more robust system that can quickly identify robocallers and spam callers in real time.

**Confidentiality:** The information that you give in the study will be anonymous. Your name and other information that could be used to identify you will not be collected or linked to the data. If you are a non-Prolific participant, your email address will not be stored anywhere and will be used only to communicate with you for the duration of the study and for payment purposes.

**Voluntary participation:** Your participation in the study is completely voluntary. You may discontinue participation at any time during the research activity.

**Right to withdraw from the study:** You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

**How to withdraw from the study:** If you want to withdraw from the study, follow one of the following protocols depending on what stage of the study you are in:

- If you have not yet completed the survey: Ignore the rest of the survey and do not submit it.
- If you have submitted the survey but have not yet downloaded the app: Do not download the app. You may also choose to notify us stating that you would like your survey data removed. Make sure you provide your participant ID number in this message so we know which data to remove. However, this is not required.
- If you have downloaded the app but have not yet forwarded any calls: Delete the app, and then follow the same process as the above bullet.
- If you have downloaded the app and have forwarded one or more calls: Follow the previous bullet's protocol. However, please note that the forwarded call information is not tagged with any identifying information. Therefore, we will be unable to remove any of these data.

There is no penalty for withdrawing; however, you will only receive compensation if you complete all three parts of the study – the survey, downloading the app, and forwarding *at least* one call.

**Payment:** You will be compensated \$4 after you complete each of the three tasks described above: completing the survey, downloading the app, and forwarding at least one call. As an added incentive for you to forward as many calls to us as

possible, for each additional call you forward, we will further compensate you with a 20-cent bonus, up to a maximum of an additional \$4. Therefore, all participants will be compensated between \$4 and \$8 depending on how many bonus calls were forwarded.

**Using data beyond this study:** The data you provide in this study will be retained in a secure manner by the researcher for this study and will not be used beyond this study.

**If you have questions about the study, contact:**

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**To obtain more information about the study, ask questions about the research procedures, express concerns about your participation, or report illness, injury or other problems, please contact:**

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**You may print a copy of this consent for your records.**