Dublin City University
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROJECT INVOLVING **HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

Application No. *(office use only)* DCUREC/2021/____

Please read the following information carefully before completing your application. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will make your submission ineligible for review.

- **Applications must be submitted via the Research Ethics Application Portal here** – no hardcopy required**. All queries relating to submission should be e-mailed to the DCU Research Ethics Committee (REC) at rec@dcu.ie**
- **Section 4 of this form addresses the possible data protection issues of the proposed research and it must be completed prior to making a formal REC application.**
- **Student applicants must include their supervisor as an investigator on the Research Ethics Application Portal** – this applies to all masters by research and PhD students. The form should be checked, approved and signed by the supervisor in advance of submission to REC. ***NB – Taught Masters and Undergraduate students apply for ethical review via their local ethics review panel, not via REC.***
- **The application should consist of one electronic file only,** with an electronic signature from the PI (and supervisor if applicable). The completed application must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially those being given to the proposed participants. The application will go through an initial triage process and will be returned to the applicant(s) if the form is incomplete or documentation is missing. If extensive changes are required, it will be reviewed at the next REC committee meeting. The application must be proofread and spellchecked before submission to the REC**.**
- **All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.**

Applications which do not adhere to all of these requirements will not be accepted for review and will be returned directly to the applicant.

Applications must be completed on the form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hardcopy applications will be accepted. **Research must not commence until written approval has been received from the Research Ethics Committee.**

Note: If your research requires approval from the Biological Safety Committee (BSC) this must be in place prior to REC submission. Contact bio.safety@dcu.ie. Please attach the responses from these committees to this submission as directed below.

PROJECT TITLE	Well-being as a measure of user-interface design (Time Out)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) *The named Principal Investigator is the person with primary responsibility for the research project. In the case of PhD/D.Ed./MSc Research projects the supervisor **must** be listed as Principal Investigator, in addition to the student.*	Hyowon Lee
START AND END DATE	20th October 2021 and 16th March 2022
LEVEL OF RISK *Please indicate whether this project requires (a) notification (b) expedited **or** (c) full committee review. Justification for your choice is required under section 3.1*	The project has minimal risk and does not require a committee review. Hence **(A) Notification**

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

PROJECT TYPE: (mark Y to as many as apply)	Research Project	Y	Funded Consultancy	…
			Clinical Trial	…
	Student Research Project (please indicate level below, e.g. PhD/D.Ed./MSc Research)	…	Other - Please Describe:	…
	PhD / Other Doctorate	…		
	D.Ed.			
	MSc Research	…		

1.1 INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): In the case of PhD/D.Ed./MSc Research projects the supervisor must be listed as Principal Investigator. *Doctoral researchers and Research Masters may be listed as Principal Investigators, depending on the conventions of the discipline and on the individual case. It should be made clear, in subsequent sections of this application, who is carrying out the research procedures.*

NAME	*SCHOOL/UNIT*	*EMAIL*
Hyowon Lee	DCU School of Computing	hyowon.lee@mail.dcu.ie

OTHER INVESTIGATORS:

NAME	*SCHOOL/UNIT*	*EMAIL*

1.2 WILL THE RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY?

YES or NO
YES

If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section 2.7.

1.3 WILL THIS RESEARCH INVOLVE ANIMALS?

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please provide details on the outcome from BRAG and attach copies of approval(s) received etc.

1.4 HAS THIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL BEEN SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER ETHICS COMMITTEE?

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please provide details on the outcome and attach copies of approval(s) received etc.

1.4.1 HAS THIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL BEEN REFUSED ETHICAL APPROVAL FROM THIS OR ANOTHER RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY?

If YES, please provide details.

NO

DECLARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the REC guidelines, the University's Conflict of Interest Policy, its Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

If there exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this research or its outcomes or any other circumstances which might represent a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest this should be declared in accordance with the University's Conflict of Interest Policy.

I and my co-investigators and/or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise. Supervisor(s) signature(s) is / are required as evidence that they have read and approve this submission.

Please note:

1. *Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior REC approval.*
2. *As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to the Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee any adverse events, any issues which might negatively impact on the conduct of the research and/or any complaint from a participant relating to their participation in the study.*

Electronic Signature(s):

Principal investigator(s): _____

Print Name(s) here: Hyowon Lee_____
Date: _____

I, the main supervisor of this research proposal, have read and approve this submission.

*Supervisor(s) signature (where relevant):*_____

*Print Name(s) here:*_____

Date: _____

2. PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION, AIMS & JUSTIFICATION, METHODOLOGY *(Approx.900 words)*

Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your research project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases. State the aims and significance of the project. Where relevant, state the specific hypothesis to be tested. Please provide a brief description of background research, a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context and an explanation of any expected benefits to the community. ***NB*** *– all references cited should be listed in an attached bibliography. Provide an outline of the proposed method and state who is doing which task – include details of data collection techniques, the tasks participants will be asked to do, the estimated time commitment involved, and how data will be analysed. If the project includes any procedure which is beyond already established and accepted techniques, please include a description of it. There should be enough detail provided to facilitate ethical review, but applicants are encouraged to keep it as succinct as possible.*

The research project is about an extension that is responsible for limiting the amount of time a user spends both continually and gradually on an online web browser and how this could affect mental health in the long run. The extension will allow the user to set a timer for them to spend on google chrome and allow them to not strain their eyes or create any type of mental drain. The aim is to educate and influence users to spend less time on the internet and in front of a screen as this can cause serious harm physically but also mentally. Below we have outlined some key effects of long screen time.

We are applying for this approval as we are planning to bring voluntary students from DCU to the labs, in order for them to test our product and provide feedback. We are looking for roughly 5-10 students from the ages of 19-25 who use a computer for an extensive period of time regularly. The students will come to the labs and use our product after which they will fill in a survey providing us with their feedback. We will make sure to find a lab that is not in use and follow covid 19 protocols.

For our extension we are using Visual Studio code in order to build the extension. We are using Javascript for our back-end code as it allows for flexibility and offers a variety of options for us programmers. For the front-end code we are using CSS and HTML, both of these programming languages are useful in terms of making the product look presentable and aesthetically pleasing. We will also be pushing files onto gitlab as we go and committing files within the src folder, showing our progression of our project as we go.

We are using chrome extensions as most people using the internet nowadays are also using a lot of extensions as it is both convenient and useful. Creating an extension that is simple to use and beneficial to the user is a major selling point in why more people should be using tools that would benefit their health. From our research, we found several problems as to why continuous screen time can lead to mental strain, lower psychological well-being, less curiosity, lower self-control, more distractibility, and inability to finish tasks.

Physical strain to your eyes and body: Through our web research, we have found that long periods of looking at a screen are undoubtedly taxing on your body, particularly your eyes. Excessive screen time not only strains your eyes and causes them to feel dry, but it can also result in retinal damage and poor vision. Furthermore, being slumped over all the time (as many people do with their cellphones) impairs your posture and can create stiffness and pain in both the neck and shoulder.

Sleep deprivation: Because the blue light generated by digital displays interferes with the generation of the sleep hormone melatonin in your body, the amount of screen time you clock has a direct influence on how much sleep you get. This is why using digital gadgets just before bedtime makes falling asleep considerably more difficult. According to research, Singaporeans do not get enough sleep, and reducing our screen time is a great way to address this issue!

What leads to screen addiction?

Addiction, in any form or to any drug, may be thought of as a physiological reaction in which the body seeks regular stimulation of the reward center of the brain. Dopamine, one of the three primary "feel-good" hormones, is released when you engage in enjoyable activities (the other two being endorphins and serotonin). The mind perceives euphoria as a consequence of a dopamine

surge, similar to how the body responds with a burst of energy after drinking caffeinated beverages. The issue is that as time passes, the body develops desensitized to the sensation (par for the course with all forms of stimuli). As a result, it seeks for more intense experiences to compensate.

This is essentially how people become addicted to their screens. Digital gadgets now take up a large portion of our personal space, and technology has been ingrained in many aspects of our existence. Almost all types of consumer-level technology, from necessities like food to pleasures like home videos, are designed to provide a satisfying experience. Addiction may strike at any age; an old person can get addicted just as readily as a toddler. Frequent exposure, whether deliberate or unintentional, is enough to set off a neurochemical cascade of responses that may appear small at first but, if left unchecked, may snowball over time.

2.2 INVESTIGATORS' QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS (Approx. 200 words)

List the academic qualifications and outline the experience and skills relevant to this project that the PI, other researchers and any supporting staff have in carrying out the research and in dealing with any emergencies, unexpected outcomes, or contingencies that may arise. ***State specifically who will be carrying out the research procedures.***

Names: Alif Hossain, Imrich Toth

Both of us are 3rd year computer science students in DCU. We both have experience in programming and have done previous assignments which will help us in conducting this project. We both have experience in Python, Javascript, Html, CSS, Django, Nodejs. We have both done networking and understand how Json files and API's work. This is key as it will allow us to develop this extension and make necessary changes if need be. Both of us have done or are currently doing part time work which helps us in terms of dealing with a work load and managing it effectively. This will also help us as we are both having to reach our target goals and understand how to effectively work as a team in order to achieve our goals.

2.3 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

List and very briefly describe each participant group where applicable. For instance, participant group 1 will consist of…, participant group 2 will consist of… etc. Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size.

For our participant group, we are looking for 5-10 students within DCU aged from 19-25.

2.4 PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application (Approx. 100 words).

Our plan is to inform people via a discord server that contains multiple members within the School of Computing, anyone that is willing to participate will be sent a message containing further details about the research we are undertaking, an in-person meeting will then be organized in order to set up our extension.

2.5 IS IT LIKELY THAT ANY PARTICIPANTS COULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE?

Are some or all participants vulnerable in any way? (e.g. by virtue of the group they belong to, people who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events, people with diminished cognitive ability, power relations between researchers and participants etc.)?

YES or NO
NO

If Yes, please state and describe what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants

2.6 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

YES or NO
YES

If NO, please explain why

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 2.6, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

2.7 HOW WILL THE ANONYMITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE RESPECTED?

Please bear in mind that where the sample size is very small, it may be impossible to guarantee anonymity/confidentiality of participant identity. Participants involved in such projects need to be advised of this limitation in the Plain Language Statement/Information Sheet. If you intend to fully anonymize the data, please provide details.

The student that will participate in the testing and reviewing will do so with complete anonymity. They will not be asked to fill in any personal details or give their name. Any data that is received will be respected and kept confidential.

2.8 LEGAL LIMITATIONS TO DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants need to be made aware that confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. This information should be included in your Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form. Depending on the research proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations.

We will inform the participants that any information that they will provide will be kept discreet and no personal information will be needed for any of their testing or reviewing.

2.9 CHILD PARTICIPANTS (anyone under 18 years old)

*If your participants include children, you **must** confirm that you are in compliance with the research specific guidelines as detailed in Keeping Children Safe - Policies and Procedures supporting Child Protection at DCU.*

Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	**Mark here**
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures	
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research	
We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)	

2.10 PLEASE EXPLAIN WHEN, HOW, WHERE, AND TO WHOM RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ANY INFORMATION AS TO THE FINDINGS OR OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT?

The results of the testing and reviewing will only be shared with both of the investigators and our supervisor.

2.11 ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION, SCHOOL ETC.?

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please specify from whom and attach a copy of the approval documentation. If this is not yet available, please explain when this will be obtained.

3. RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO PARTICIPANTS

You must provide a justification for the stated level of risk and its corresponding level of review (Full Committee, Expedited, Notification), as indicated on the cover page of your application. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the research itself. For further information on risk levels, please refer to the Levels of Review information on the Research Support Services website.

The level of risk to the participants will be extremely minimal or almost nonexistent. The participants are only providing their thoughts of a product and any improvements they would like to see. And provide how they might feel about a product like this.

3.2 POTENTIAL RISKS TO PARTICIPANTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks to participants (physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, etc.), associated with the proposed research. Will your research involve deception, investigation of participants involved in illegal activities, performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression, administration of any substance or agent, collection of body tissues or fluid samples, use of non-treatment of placebo control conditions, collection and/or testing of DNA samples, administration of ionising radiation? Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.

The risks are extremely minimal or almost nonexistent. We will be conducting this testing in a safe environment and also follow covid 19 protocols. The participants will be in a comfortable area and will be provided any help or assistance if need be.

3.3 ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY BENEFITS (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THIS RESEARCH?

YES or NO
YES

If YES, provide details

The participants may become more aware of their screen time and reduce mental strain if they are suffering from any by doing so

3.4 ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO RESEARCHERS?

Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, research being undertaken in certain locations, researchers working alone in isolated areas, etc.

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please describe and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks

3.5 DEALING WITH ADVERSE / UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

Please describe what measures/protocols you have put in place in the event that there are any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the project.

As we are all adults we are used to dealing with unexpected situations and have experience with such events. For our testing and reviewing we will be ready and make sure to contact our supervisor if anything occurs.

3.6 SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Depending on risks to participants you may need to consider having additional support for participants during/after the study. Consider whether your project would require additional support, e.g., external counselling available to participants. Please advise what support will be available.

Any kind of support needed by the participants, we will provide.

3.7 HOW WILL THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT BE MONITORED?

Please explain how the principal investigator will monitor the conduct of the project (especially where several people are involved in recruiting or interviewing, administering procedures, etc.) to ensure that it conforms to the procedures set out in this application. In the case of student projects please give details of how the supervisor(s) will monitor the conduct of the project.

All participants will be respected and treated fairly and with dignity.

3.8 DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please provide further details

3.9 DO ANY OF THE RESEARCHERS ON THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, FINANCIAL, POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL, OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed

4. PERSONAL DATA

Definition of Personal Data
Personal data is any information about a living person, where that person is either identified or could be identified, from the data itself or when it is combined with other data. Typical examples of personal data in a research context are:

a) paper based records e.g. consent forms, research participant files, patient records, interview notes etc.

b) electronic records e.g. database of participant details, online survey returns, photos, audio & visual recordings, IP addresses, diagnostic / clinical imaging etc.

c) other e.g. genetic data, biometric data, clinical or medical samples etc.

Note: If personal data is to be obtained and / or processed in the course of the proposed research then there are certain legal obligations and principles to be followed. These are set out in the 2016 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and associated Irish Law.

Any data that is fully and completely anonymous is not considered to be 'personal data'. However, any data that is merely pseudo-anonymised is deemed to be 'personal data'.

Further information on data protection issues is available from the University's Data Protection Unit (DPU). You should also consider consulting with your Unit's GDPR Advocate for help and advice on filling out this section of the form.

(A) Your knowledge of Data Protection		
Have you taken and completed the online data protection training course ('Data Protection Course') that that is available to all staff and students through the DCU Loop System?	**YES or NO**	**NO.**

If you answered 'No' to the previous question then the DPU strongly recommends that all applicants complete the course on Loop before completing section # 4 of the REC Application Form.

If you experience difficulties in accessing the Loop course at the link above, please contact the Teaching Enhancement Unit for assistance.

(B) Initial Assessment of whether any of the data to be used in the proposed research is 'Personal Data' (see definition above)			
1	Will the proposed research include living human subjects? *Rationale – personal data applies only to living individuals.*	**YES or NO**	**Yes**
2	Will the proposed research use any data that can be linked to an identified, or an identifiable, person? *Rationale – to be personal data it must be possible to associate it with an identified, or an identifiable, living person.*	**YES or NO**	**No**
3	Will the proposed research use any data identifiers that can be linked to a living person? Examples are a participant's name, code or ID number, their address, their IP address etc. *Rationale: fully anonymised data is not deemed to be 'personal data' but data that has been deemed to be merely pseudo-anonymised is deemed to be 'personal data'.*	**YES or NO**	**No**

If you answered 'Yes' to any of the questions 1 to 3 in sub-section (B), then continue to sub-section (C) and answer questions 1-8. If you answered 'No' to all of the questions 1 to 3 in sub-section (B), then proceed directly to section # 5 of this Application Form.

(C) Assessing the degree of risk inherent in the personal data

1	Will the proposed research involve the use of <u>personal data</u> on individuals that reveals any of the following attributes or characteristics about them? (State 'Yes' or 'No' as appropriate to all of the following)		
	Racial or Ethnic Origin	**YES or NO**	**NO.**
	Political Opinions	**YES or NO**	**NO**
	Religious or Philosophical Beliefs	**YES or NO**	**NO**
	Trade Union Membership	**YES or NO**	**NO**
	Genetic Data	**YES or NO**	**NO**
	Biometric Data	**YES or NO**	**NO**
	Data Concerning Health	**YES or NO**	**NO**
	Data concerning a Person's Sex Life or Sexual Orientation	**YES or NO**	**NO**
2	Will the proposed research involve the use of <u>personal data</u> relating to children or vulnerable individuals? *A child, for data protection purposes, is defined as an individual below 18 years of age. Where the processing relates to 'electronic marketing' the age limit is reduced to 16 years. A vulnerable individual may be anyone who is unable to consent to, or to oppose, the processing of his or her data for any reason, including disability.*	**YES or NO**	**NO**
3	Will the proposed research involve the use of data relating to an individual's criminal convictions and / or offences?	**YES or NO**	**No**
4	Will the proposed research involve the large-scale processing of <u>personal data</u>? *This may include: a wide range or large volume of personal data; processing which takes place over a large geographical area; processing where a large number of people are affected (e.g. over 100 individuals); or where the processing is extensive or it has potential long-lasting effects on individuals.*	**YES or NO**	**No**
5	Will the proposed research involve any form of <u>automated processing</u> of personal data? *In particular, to analyse or predict aspects concerning that person's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements.*	**YES or NO**	**NO**
6	Will the proposed research involve the sharing or transferring of any personal data to a 3rd party outside of DCU? *For example, other research partners, providers of translation or transcription services, etc.* *For clarity, this question is not intended to refer to any standard software services already provided by DCU, for example the university's email system or its cloud-based storage provider (Google Drive).*	**YES or NO**	**No**
7	Will the proposed research require the sharing or processing of personal data outside the EU or the EEA? (e.g. the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, China etc.) *The EEA refers to the 'European Economic Area' (i.e. the EU plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland).*	**YES or NO**	**No**

8	Will the proposed research involve the matching or combining of separate datasets of information on individuals in a way that would exceed their reasonable expectations of privacy? *This is especially important where two or more previously anonymous datasets are combined in such a way so as to allow for the identification of individuals. An example would be combining mobile phone location data along with any other dataset to identify individuals.*	**YES or NO**	**No**

Important Point: Next Step

If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of the questions 1 to 8 in sub-section (C) **you must contact the Data Protection Unit (DPU) prior to submitting this application form to the REC**. The DPU will assess whether there are any further data protection issues to be addressed or additional procedures to be followed.

5. DATA / SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section the term 'Data' includes personal data that is in a raw or a processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis, etc.). The term 'Samples' include body fluids and/or tissue samples.

5.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA / SAMPLES BE STORED?

DCU recommends that any data stored electronically offsite should utilise the DCU Google Drive. Alternative offsite storage will need to be justified and must meet data protection and GDPR compliance requirements.

The data will be discreetly handled and after use will be destroyed.

5.2 WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO DATA / SAMPLES?

If people other than the main researchers have access, please name who they are and explain for what purpose.

Both investigators and The supervisor.

5.3 HOW LONG IS THE DATA TO BE HELD OR RETAINED?

*Note that, with very few exceptions, **Personal Data** may not be retained indefinitely. It is up to the research team to establish an upper retention limit for each category of Personal Data used within the project and to ensure it is applied at the expiry of that limit.*

Until the End of the project.

5.4 WILL THE PERSONAL DATA BE USED AT A LATER DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH?

YES or NO
No

Where it is intended that the personal data used in the project will be used at a later date for the purposes of publication please explain how consent to do so will be obtained.

N/A

5.5 IF THE DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF AT THE END OF THE PROJECT PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM THIS WILL BE DONE?

*Note that simply deleting files is not sufficiently secure. The additional steps to be taken to maintain data security should be given. **Personal data** must be disposed of in a safe and secure manner at the end of its retention period. If the data is stored in (a) a paper-based format, then shredding or disposal via a secure bin is recommended; or (b) in an electronic-based format, then deletion of the record or the full anonymization of the data is recommended. If data/samples are **not** being disposed of, please justify that intention.*

How will the data/samples be disposed? Please describe the means by which the personal data will be deleted or destroyed. This includes personal data held in hard copy and digital formats.	We will use a paper shredder to dispose of the papers and make sure all other hard copies are disposed of.
When will the data/samples be disposed? Please indicate the intended retention period of the personal data, and reasons for this retention period. Please note that retention periods must be GDPR compliant and must be consistent with the DCU Retention Policy.	Right after our project is Finished.
By whom will the data/samples be disposed? Please indicate the designated team member(s) with responsibility for deletion and/or destruction of the research project's personal data.	By both the investigator and the supervisor.

6. FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH

6.1 HOW IS THIS WORK BEING FUNDED?

Does not need any funding

6.2 PROJECT GRANT NUMBER *(If relevant and/or known – otherwise mark as N/A)*

N/A

6.3 DOES THE PROJECT REQUIRE APPROVAL BEFORE CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING BY A GRANTING BODY?

YES or NO
NO

6.4 HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE INFORMED OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDING? *(E.g. included in the Plain Language Statement)*

N/A

6.5 DO THE FUNDERS OF THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, FINANCIAL, POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL, OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO
NO

If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed

7. PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT *(Attach to this document. Approx. 400 words)*

A Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in all cases. This is written information in plain language that you will be providing to participants, outlining the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. Please note that the language used must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level– if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adults and children) then separate forms should be prepared for each group. The PLS can be embedded in an email to which an online survey is attached, or handed/sent to individuals in advance of their consent being sought. See the link to sample templates on the Ethics Approval section of the Research Support Services website.

PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN YOUR PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT/ INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS:

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (PI and researcher names, school, title of the research)	**Yes**
What is this research about?	**Yes**
Why is this research being conducted?	**Yes**
What will the participant be expected to do/have to do if they decide to participate in the research study?	**Yes**
How will their privacy be protected?	**Yes**
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of?	**Yes**
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality?	**Yes**
Are there any benefits of taking part in the research study?	**Yes**
Are there any risks of taking part in the research study?	**Yes**
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study	**Yes**
How will participants find out what happens with the project?	**Yes**
Contact details for further information (including REC contact details)	**Yes**
Details relating to GDPR Compliance where Personal Data is being sought	**Yes**

If any of these issues are marked NO, please justify their exclusion:

8. INFORMED CONSENT FORM *(Attach to this document. Approx. 300 words)*

In most cases where interviews or focus groups are taking place, an Informed Consent Form is required. This is an important document requiring participants to indicate their consent to participate in the study and give their signature. In cases where an anonymous questionnaire is being used, it is not enough to include a tick box in the questionnaire. Participants should indicate their consent to each aspect of the research in a staged manner by checking mandatory checkboxes.
See link to sample templates on the Ethics Approval section of the Research Support Services website.

NB – IF AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.

The informed consent form is provided at the end of the ethics form.

9. ASSENT FORM & PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT FOR CHILDREN *(Attach to this document.)*

A child specific Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in research where children will be involved. The PLS must be written in a way that is understandable for children within your targeted age group. It also must state, in plain language, the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. In addition, child participants should also be provided with an Assent Form. Parents/guardians will be provided with the Informed Consent Form, but each child should provide assent

before taking part in the research. The Assent Form needs to be understandable to the age-group you are targeting. See link to sample templates on the Ethics Approval Section of the Research Support Services website.

NB – IF AN ASSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.

N/A

10. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST *(Attach to this document)*

Please confirm that all supplementary information is included in your application (in electronic copy). If questionnaire or interview questions are submitted in draft form, please indicate this by putting (draft) after YES. A copy of the final documentation must be submitted for final approval when available.

My application has been collated as one electronic file which includes the following documentation:	**INCLUDED (mark as YES)**	**NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)**
Bibliography		N/A
Recruitment advertisement		N/A
Plain language statement/Information Statement	**YES**	
Informed Consent form	**YES**	
Informed Assent form		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research		N/A
Questionnaire / Survey		N/A
Interview / Focus Group Questions		N/A
Debriefing material		N/A
Other (e.g. BSC approval review letter, Data Protection Impact Assessment)		N/A

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

Study Title:
Well-being as a measure of User-Interface design

Researchers:
Alif Hossain, 3rd Year student in School of Computing DCU (alif.hossain5@mail.dcu.ie)
Imrich Toth, 3rd Year student in School of Computing DCU (imrich.toth2@mail.dcu.ie)

Supervisor:
Hyowon Lee (hyowon.lee@mail.dcu.ie)

Purpose of the Research:
The purpose of this research is to gain user feedback about our product, we want to see if influencing lower screen time to our peers can reduce current or future mental strain.

Statement as to whether or not the research data is to be destroyed after a minimum period
All data obtained from the participants will be destroyed and put in a paper shredder right after the project is over. (16th March 2022)

Details of what participant involvement in the Research Study will require
Participants will be required to use the product and provide their feedback via an online survey.

Potential risks to participants from involvement in the Research Study (if greater than that encountered in everyday life)
The risks are extremely minimal or almost nonexistent. We will be conducting this testing in a safe environment and also follow covid 19 protocols. The participants will be in a comfortable area and will be provided any help or assistance if need be.

Any benefits (direct or indirect) to participants from involvement in the Research Study
They can be more aware of the effects of mental and eye strain and what tools are out there for them to use.

Advice as to arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations
Before the participants do the survey and the testing they will be told beforehand that it is anonymous and all data will be confidential and kept discreet.

A statement that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary
All participants that participate in the testing and feedback(online survey) are doing so voluntarily and have full right to change their mind at any time. All participants are conducting this testing and feedback on their own choice.

Any other relevant information – e.g.

- The data collected will be used to determine whether or not the product does what it is intended for and also if any changes or improvements are needed.
- The participants will have full right to leave at any time they want.
- At the end of the feedback the participants will be told what is intended by the use of their feedback and how any feedback collected will be disposed of correctly.
- The participants will be given contact details if they do not want their feedback to be used or want it to be erased/disposed of.
- Details relating to GDPR Compliance where Personal Data is being sought: not so necessary as we are only looking for feedback(their thoughts) and no personal data will be collected.
- It is important to note confidentiality of information provided cannot always be
- guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law.

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation

Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

Informed Consent Form

Research Study Title*:* Well-being as a measure of User-Interface design

School: DCU School of Computing

Researchers:
Alif Hossain, 3rd Year student in School of Computing DCU (alif.hossain5@mail.dcu.ie)
Imrich Toth, 3rd Year student in School of Computing DCU (imrich.toth2@mail.dcu.ie)

Supervisor:
Hyowon Lee (hyowon.lee@mail.dcu.ie)

Clarification of the purpose of the research
The purpose of this research is to gain product feedback from daily chrome users and to find the participants' thoughts(likes/dislikes) and also any changes they would like to see. We will use this data to further improve our product and correct mistakes.

Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)	
I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)	*Yes/No*
I understand the information provided	*Yes/No*
I understand the information provided in relation to data protection	*Yes/No*
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study	*Yes/No*
I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions	*Yes/No*

Confirmation that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary
I understand that my participation is voluntary and I may withdraw at any time.

Confirmation of arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations

I understand that all data(feedback) that I provide will be kept confidential and will only be used to enhance/improve this product.

Confirmation of arrangements regarding the retention / disposal of data

I understand that my data will be disposed of upon the completion of this project.

Confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the PLS

I understand all other relevant information as indicated in the Plain Language Statement.

Signature:

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this research project

Participants Signature: Alif Hossain, Imrich Toth _____

Name in Block Capitals: Alif Hossain, Imrich Toth_____

_____

Witness:_____

Date:_____