

# Consent Form

University of California, San Diego  
Consent to Act as a Research Subject

Exploring User Interaction and Mental Models with Spam Email

## Introduction

Dr. Imani Munyaka, Alex M. Flores (Ph.D. student) are conducting this research and asking for your consent to participate. This section provides a summary of important information. The rest of the form provides additional details.

- Research is voluntary- whether or not you join is your decision. You can discuss your decision with others (such as family and friends).
- You can say yes but change your mind later.
- If you say no, we will not hold your decision against you.
- Your decision will not affect your relationship between the subject and UC San Diego or any other benefits you may be entitled to.
- Please ask questions or mention concerns before, during, or after the research.

The purpose of this study is to gather participant knowledge of spam. Communicating with us (optional) and responding to our survey will take approximately 15 minutes. There may or may not be any direct benefit to you from participating in this study. You may think deeply about email. The investigator, however, may learn more about what users are being taught to do.

You will be compensated with \$2.50 for completing this study.

The most commonly expected risks of the study are the potential for the loss of confidentiality. Research records will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. Research records may be reviewed by the UCSD Institutional Review Board.

An alternative to this study is simply not participating. Additional, detailed information about this research is provided below. Please feel free to ask questions before signing this consent.

## **Why you have been asked to participate, how were you selected, and what is the approximate number of participants in the study?**

You have been asked to participate in this study because you are an email user. There will be approximately 2000 participants in this study.

## **What will happen to you in this study?**

In addition to the information at the beginning of this form, here are some additional details about what will happen to you if you agree to be in this study.

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to:

- Complete a survey and demographic questionnaire
- Interact with an chat bot

### **Data collection and analysis:**

- Your data will be anonymized and will not contain any personal-identifying information.
- All data will be collected and password protected, while exported data will be kept on password-protected UCSD servers. Only the researchers will have access to the information we collect online. There is a minimal risk that security of any online data may be breached, but since no identifying information will be collected, and the online host (Python Everywhere) uses several forms of encryption and other protections, it is unlikely that a security breach of the online data will result in any adverse consequence for you
- We will perform statistical analysis on the data collected such as the difference in average confidence score between groups of participants and analysis of questions.
- If you sign up via Prolific or Mturk, your Prolific or Mturk ID will be used only for the purpose of awarding compensation and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team. It will not be linked with your survey responses and will be removed from the data set once compensation has been made.

### **How much time will each study procedure take?**

Communicating with us (optional) and responding to our survey will take approximately 15 Minutes.

### **What risks are associated with this study?**

Participation in this study may involve some added risks or discomforts. These include the following:

- Potential for the loss of confidentiality.

Research records will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. Research records may be reviewed by the UCSD Institutional Review Board. We may need to report information about known or reasonably suspected incidents of abuse or neglect of a child, dependent adult, or elder including physical, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse or neglect. If any investigator has or is given such information, he or she may report such information to the appropriate authorities. Because this is a research study, there may also be some unknown risks that are currently unforeseeable. You will be informed of any significant new findings.

### **What happens if you change your mind about participating?**

Participation in research is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw or

refuse to answer specific questions in an interview or on a questionnaire at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. If you decide that you no longer wish to continue in this study, you will be requested to email the study team. You will be told if any important new information is found during the course of this study that may affect your want to continue.

**Can you be withdrawn from the study without your consent?**

The PI may remove you from the study without your consent if the PI feels it is in your best interest or the best interest of the study. You may also be withdrawn from the study if you do not follow the instructions given to you by the study personnel.

**Will you be compensated for participating in this study?**

You will be compensated with \$2.50 after completing the survey based on the \$15/hr rate.

**Are there any costs associated with participating in this study?**

There will be no cost to you for participating in this study.

**What if you are injured as a direct result of being in this study?**

Please call 911 as this study is completely online at the location of your choosing.

**Who can you call if you have questions?**

After reviewing this form, if you have any questions about the study please email one of the study personnel ([designstudyresearchers@gmail.com](mailto:designstudyresearchers@gmail.com)) or Dr. Imani Munyaka directly ([drmunyaka@eng.ucsd.edu](mailto:drmunyaka@eng.ucsd.edu)). If you have other research-related problems, you may reach Dr. Imani Munyaka at [drmunyaka@eng.ucsd.edu](mailto:drmunyaka@eng.ucsd.edu).

You may call the Human Research Protections Program Office at 858-246-HRPP (858-246-4777) to inquire about your rights as a research subject or to report research-related problems.

**Your Consent**

You can download a copy of this form by using the buttons presented below. After reviewing the consent form, please select the option that best fits you