Participant Information Letter

Dear Potential Participant:

On behalf of myself, Dr. Vijay Mago, and the DaTALab at Lakehead University, you are being invited to complete the following survey. This survey involves using simulation and modeling web software and filling up two questionnaires. The questionnaires tell us about your perception of our system and also your computer skills. Completing the survey will approximately take 1 hour of your time.

Taking part in this study is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time, without penalty. Before you decide whether or not you would like to take part in this study, please read this letter carefully to understand what is involved.

TITLE OF STUDY
Evaluation of moderated vs unmoderated software usability study

PURPOSE
A software usability survey is used to determine the user-friendliness and intuitiveness of software. There are two methods of usability study; moderated and unmoderated. In this research, we are interested in comparing the results of these two different methods and evaluating the data quality and accuracy of each survey method.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?
We collect information from the questionnaire answer sheets, the results of the accomplished tasks, and the mouse movements only within the "create simulation page". We also collect the email, gender, and age of our participants. Age and gender are used to describe the characteristics of survey participants.

WHAT IS REQUESTED OF ME AS A PARTICIPANT?
As a participant, you are required to read the task list shared with you and complete the three steps. We estimate that your participation will take 45 minutes to 1 hour or your time.

You are under no obligation to participate in this research and are free to withdraw at any time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND BENEFITS?
There are no foreseeable risks to participating in this survey. Benefits include standing a chance to win a $20 Amazon gift card and helping researchers answer questions regarding survey methods.

HOW WILL MY CONFIDENTIALITY BE MAINTAINED?
The data collected from the survey will be stored on secure password-protected servers of DaTALab Lakehead University. Any results released from this study will only present aggregated data in such a way that no individual participant can be identified.

WHAT WILL MY DATA BE USED FOR:
The data will be used to compare two methods of surveys; namely moderated and unmoderated.

WHERE WILL MY DATA BE STORED?
The survey data will be stored on the secure servers, managed by Dr. Vijay Mago, for a period of 5 years.

HOW CAN I RECEIVE A COPY OF THE RESEARCH RESULTS?
The research results will be searchable under the works of Dr. Vijay Mago, once the research is complete and academic publications are prepared and submitted. Participants can also contact Dr. Vijay Mago at vmago@lakeheadu.ca to receive a direct copy of the results.

WHAT IF I WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY?
Taking part in this study is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time, without penalty.

RESEARCHER CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Vijay Mago (vmago@lakeheadu.ca)
There will be no commercialization of the research results. There are no conflicts of interest for the researchers involved.

RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL:
This study has been approved by the Lakehead University Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions related to the ethics of the research and would like to speak to someone outside of the research team please contact Sue Wright at the Research Ethics Board at 807-343-8283 or research@lakeheadu.ca.