

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 our 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.

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 study the demographic of our survey.

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. This process should take less than 1 hour to complete.

You are under no obligation to participate in this research and are free to withdraw at any time. Payment for your participation will be limited by the amount of tweets labelled upon withdrawing. As the survey data is anonymized and contains no personal data, once you have completed the survey we will be unable to remove your labelling data from the data set as we would not be able to find it.

Additional rights and conditions are determined by the Amazon Mechanical Turk Participation Agreement: <https://www.mturk.com/participation-agreement>

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?

Your email address will be stored separately on an encrypted and password-protected database. The results of the survey response data will be stored on secure password-protected servers of DaTALab Lakehead University.

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 research study has been reviewed and 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](tel:807-343-8283) or research@lakeheadu.ca.

