<<LOGO>>

Name of Researcher, Faculty, Department, Telephone & Email:

<<name>>, <<department>>, <<university>>
<<email>>

Supervisor:

<<name>>, <<department>>, <<university>>
<<email>>

Title of Project:

Developers or Consumers? From the perspective of third-party library integration
Sponsor:

NSERC

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed consent. If you want more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

The <<university name>> Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this research study.

Participation is completely voluntary, and confidential.

Purpose of the Study

As part of software development, developers often look for third party libraries (application or source code) that can be used in their own software application. Though such library selection process apparently seems simple, it involves a lot of factor and processes in developer's mind and interactions. To help such developers, we would like to formulate a model on how the process of decision making happens under what factors and influences. To discover the process, we would like to have a semi-structured interview with developers.

What Will I Be Asked To Do?

Overview
During the semi-structured interview, we will ask you few questions to learn about your software development experiences, particularly some examples or cases when you had to choose third party libraries. The nature of the interview is exploratory and open-ended where we would follow the discussion path as you respond.

Questions regarding the research topic

To facilitate the discussion, we have few questions in mind just to help us navigate:

1. Can you tell us few libraries that you had to compare in your career?
2. What are the steps of this library comparison and selection process?
3. How much time is taken in each step?
4. How the search (for available libraries) is performed internally and externally (Google/Bing or Q&A site specific search)
5. What external websites is most helpful for API comparison?
6. What type of opinions are most helpful for API selection?
7. What are the factors and weights of the factors during API comparison?

8. Who influences the selection process?
9. Who takes the final decision?
10. What environmental (organizational/industry etc.) factors impact API selection?
11. What individual characteristics affect API selection?

<u>Questions regarding Professional Experience</u>

In addition to this, we would like to know following information about you and your organizations (where you had to choose a library):

- Your year of professional experience
- Your primary role
- Your primary application domain
- Size of your company (total headcount, engineering headcount)
- Primary domain/industry of your organization

<u>Interview tools and processes</u>

- Interview place: The interview will be performed online
- Meeting Tool: Microsoft Teams
- Duration: approximately 45~60 minutes
- Discussion Language: English
- Recording: Audio ON, Video optional.
  - We would like to record the audio as sometimes the automated transcription of Microsoft Teams cannot capture the actual word or sentence. We shall have to correct the transcription by manually going through the audio tape.
  - Video is optional though we encourage it since the interview is being conducted online. Keeping the video on will help us understand and perceive your concerns, insights, and responses more clearly as the interview will have to follow an open-ended discussion. If we turn on the video and record the audio, because of the technology we are using (Microsoft Teams), the video will also be recorded. So, if we want to keep the video recording off and audio recording on, we shall have to keep the video off during the interview.

<u>Interview follow up communication</u>

After the interview, we will analyze your responses. If we have any question or lack of understanding of your responses, we might follow you up through your preferable media – either through email or another call. We may also send you a summary of our understanding and analysis over email to solicit your kind review. All sorts of follow up communication will be completely voluntary if you choose to decline.

<u>Voluntary participation</u>

Participation in this interview is completely voluntary, that you may refuse to participate altogether, may refuse to participate in parts of the study, may decline to answer any and all questions, and may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

What Type of Personal Information Will Be Collected?

You will not be asked to provide any personally identifiable information during the interview <u>except</u> your email

address which will be used solely to communicate with you regarding the invitation and follow up communication. Other than email, no personal identifying information will be collected in this study, and all participants shall remain anonymous.

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide your gender.

As we wish to audiotape and videotape the interview, the recording will be available only to the researchers of this project and will not be distributed anyone else unless asked for a validation or verification of the interview contents by a designated research review authority. The video will not be shown in public unless you explicitly initiate the request to make it public for your own interest and for the sake of greater community benefit.

There are several options for you to consider if you decide to take part in this research. You can choose all, some, or none of them. Please review each of these options and choose Yes or No:

I grant permission to be audio-taped: Yes: ___ No: ___

I grant permission to be video-taped: Yes: ___ No: ___

I grant permission to provide my gender information: Yes: ___ No: ___

I wish to remain anonymous: Yes: ___ No: ___

I wish to make the interview video public: Yes: ___ No: ___

Are there Risks or Benefits if I Participate?

During the interview, you will be requested to provide examples from your past professional experience. Remembering such previous experience may trigger some of you emotion regarding your colleague, organization or process that may be mentally stressful to you.

What Happens to the Information I Provide?

[Participants are free to withdraw until 02 weeks after data collection.]
If you notify us to withdraw your information, we shall delete the audio and video recording and the transcript.

No one except the researcher and their research group and supervisor will be allowed to see or hear any of the answers to the questionnaire or the interview tape. There are no names on the questionnaire. Only group information will be summarized for any presentation or publication of results. The questionnaires are kept in a locked cabinet only accessible by the researcher and their research group and supervisor. The anonymous data will be stored for five years on a computer disk, at which time, it will be permanently erased."

In the research reports, you will be anonymized by giving a random unique identifier (for example Interviewee01 or In01). If you work in a popularly known as a Big Tech company, your company will be referred to a Big Tech company. Otherwise, your company will be referred to as 'Company of In01'. The report will contain the industry, and size of your company.

"Would you like to receive a summary of the study's results?   Yes: ___ No: ___
If yes, please provide your contact information (e-mail address, or phone number)"

_____

"Are you interested in being contacted about a follow-up interview, with the understanding that you can always decline the request?"   Yes: ___ No: ___

Signatures

Your signature on this form indicates that 1) you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) you agree to participate in the research project.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Participant's Name: (please print) _____

Participant's Signature: _____Date: _____

Researcher's Name: (please print) _<<name>> _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Questions/Concerns

If you have any further questions or want clarification regarding this research and/or your participation, please contact:

<div align="center">

<<name>>, <<department>>, <<university>>
<<email>>

and

<<name>>, <<department>>, <<university>>
<<email>>

</div>

If you have any concerns about the way you've been treated as a participant, please contact the Research Ethics Analyst, Research Services Office, <<university name>> at <<phone>> or <<phone>>; email <<email>>. A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator has kept a copy of the consent form.