Consent Form

You are invited to participate in a research study of student attitudes in internet ethics and the downloading of music IRB Application Number: 2009M8203. I am a graduate student at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas in the School of Occupational Education. I am also a faculty member in the School of Music at the same institution. This study is part of my required research to fulfill the requirements of my degree plan. I hope to learn something about your behavior and attitudes in the use of Peer-to-Peer network software. You were selected as a possible participant in this study since you are a student at Texas State. You will be one of 300 subjects asked to participate in this study. If you decide to participate, I ask that you take this survey. The survey contains 35 questions and should take no more than 20 minutes to finish. The survey should give me some insight into your knowledge and practices in the use of Peer-to-Peer network software. I will also be asking questions concerning your attitudes on legal and ethical issues in the use of peer-to-peer file sharing software. The survey will be simple and will not require anything but your honest answers. There should be no physical or psychological risks to the participants.

These surveys will be completely anonymous. After you take the survey, no one will be able to identify your paper. Your decision whether or not to participate will not in any way affect your future relations with Texas State University. If you decide to participate, you are free to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice. You are also free to choose not to answer some questions on the survey. The data from the anonymous surveys will be kept for no more than 2 years from the end of the data collection process to allow the researcher time to process the data, and to write and hopefully publish the research paper. Upon completion of the study, A summary of the findings will be posted on a TRACS site available to all Texas State students upon request. Any Texas State University student whether they took part in the study or not, will be allowed access to the summary by sending an email request to me.

If you have any questions, now or later, please feel free to contact me at 512-245-4552 or email me at am07@txstate.edu.

Please print a copy of this consent form to keep for your personal use.

You are making a decision whether or not to participate. By continuing from this point and taking the survey, you indicate that you have read the information provided above and have decided to participate. You may withdraw at any time without prejudice should you choose to discontinue participation in this study.

Pertinent questions about the research, research participant’s rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – lasser@txstate.edu), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).