



Dublin City University
School of Computing
ETHICS COMMITTEE

NOTIFICATION FORM FOR LOW-RISK
PROJECTS AT UNDERGRADUATE OR
TAUGHT MASTERS LEVELS

Application Number:			
<p><u>Please read the following information carefully before completing your application. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will make your submission ineligible for review.</u></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Download this form➤ Completed applications must be uploaded to your School of Computing GitLab repo, and must be located in “docs/ethics.pdf”.➤ Your supervisor will be notified automatically and must approve your approach initially.➤ The application should consist of <u>one electronic file (PDF) only</u>. The completed application must include this form and also must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially that being given to the proposed participants e.g consent forms, plain English language statement. It must be proofread and spell-checked before submission.➤ All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given. <p>Applications which do not adhere to all of these requirements will not be accepted for review and will require resubmission</p> <p>Applications must be completed on this form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hard copy applications will be accepted. The project <u>must not</u> commence until written approval has been received from the School of Computing Ethics Committee.</p>			

PROJECT TITLE	SmartPredict – Fourth Year Project
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) <i>The named Principal Investigator is the person with primary responsibility for the research project. In the case of Taught Masters projects and undergraduate projects the supervisor is the Principal Investigator.</i>	Martin Crane
START AND END DATE	5 th October 2018 - 20 th May 2019

LEVEL OF RISK <i>Please indicate whether this project requires more than a notification Justification for your choice is required under section 3.1</i>	Notification only
---	-------------------

Please confirm that all supplementary information is included in your application (in electronic copy). If questionnaire or interview questions are submitted in draft form, please indicate this by putting (draft) after YES. A copy of the final documentation must be submitted for final approval when available.

My application has been collated as one electronic file which includes the following documentation:	INCLUDED (mark as YES)	NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)
Bibliography		N/A
Recruitment advertisement		N/A
Plain language statement/Information statement		N/A
Informed consent form		N/A
Personal Data Security Schedule https://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/info/3_blank_data_security_schedule.xls		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey	YES (draft)	
Interview/Focus Group Questions		N/A
Debriefing material		N/A
Other (e.g. local government approval)		N/A

Please note:

- Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior SCEC approval.
- As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to SCEC any adverse events, any issues which might negatively impact on the conduct of the research and/or any complaint from a participant relating to their participation in the study

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Project Type: Undergraduate Project – Final Year

1.1 INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): *Your supervisor and other academic staff who are assisting, it should be clear who is the person who is carrying out the research procedures.*

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL
Martin Crane	School of computing	martin.crane@dcu.ie
Ben Kelly	School of computing	ben.kelly45@mail.dcu.ie

OTHER INVESTIGATORS (STUDENT(S):

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL

1.2 WILL THE RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT A Dublin City University CAMPUS ?

YES or NO
NO

(If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section

2.7.)

40 Talbot Avenue, Malahide, Co. Dublin. At Ben Kelly's household

1.3 IS THIS PROTOCOL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER ETHICS COMMITTEE, OR HAS IT BEEN PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO AN ETHICS COMMITTEE?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please provide details and attach copies of approval(s) received etc.)

DECLARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the SCEC guidelines (<https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>), the University's policy on Conflict of Interest, Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

If there exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this research or its outcomes or any other circumstances which might represent a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest this should be declared in accordance with Dublin City University policy on Conflicts of Interest.

I and my co-investigators or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise.

Ben Kelly 

Electronic Signature(s):

Principal investigator(s): Ben Kelly, Martin Crane

Print Name(s) here: BEN KELLY, MARTIN CRANE

Date: 21/02/2019

2. PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION (Max. 300 words)

Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your research project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases.

SmartPredict is a Web application trading platform which aims to help users make intelligent decisions on buying and selling of currencies (foreign exchange & cryptocurrency markets). This is achieved through machine learning and chart analysis. The application will provide the user with predictions for the market based on knowledge it has gained from past and present data. Recommending whether the user should buy, sell or hold their specific currency relative to its current value. A user will be able to trade, view the current market sentiment and review the prediction of the machine learning algorithm all within the application.

Ethical approval is required for the user testing involved for this project. Users will answer an anonymous questionnaire (details provided) and will undergo user tests where they're asked to perform a series of simple tasks on the app and the time it takes for them to complete these tasks is recorded. This will measure the usability of the app.

2.2 AIMS OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESEARCH (Max. 400 words)

State the aims and significance of the project. Where relevant, state the specific hypothesis to be tested. Please provide a brief description of background research, a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context and an explanation of any expected benefits to the community. NB – all references cited should be listed in an attached bibliography.

The aim of the testing is to gauge how usable the app is and individuals rate how usable and easy the user interface is to navigate.

Hypothesis: The user interface is usable and accessible

A simple questionnaire and user tests mentioned previous will suffice.

The app requires a robust level of testing in order to be valid, user testing which ethical approval is required is a small but essential part of this testing process.

2.3 DESCRIBE THE METHODOLOGY BEING USED TO ACHIEVE YOUR STATED AIMS

Provide an outline of the proposed method and state who is doing which task – include details of data collection techniques, the tasks participants will be asked to do, the estimated time commitment involved, and how data will be analysed. If the project includes any procedure which is beyond already established and accepted techniques please include a description of it. There should be enough detail provided to facilitate ethical review, but applicants are encouraged to keep it as succinct as possible.

Users will answer an anonymous questionnaire (details provided) and will undergo user tests where they're asked to perform a series of simple tasks on the app and the time it takes for them to complete these tasks is recorded. This will measure the usability of the app. All tasks will be completed by Ben Kelly

A total of 10 minutes of the participants' time will be required.

The data will be analyzed as a scale (from extremely usable to unusable) to determine how usable the app's user interface is. i.e. if the user is taking longer than 2 minutes to register and login to the app the user interface is not very usable.

2.4 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size. Please provide a justification for selecting a specific gender, age, or any other group if this is done in your project.

10 individuals
Age range: 19 – 85
Family members & friends
10 individuals are the minimum number required for valid user testing.
This age spectrum is as broad as possible which will give greater accuracy for the usability of the app. To trade a user must be at least 18 years old. Both genders are required for the same reason.

2.4(a) PARTICIPANT VULNERABILITY

Are some or all of participants vulnerable in any way? (e.g by virtue of the group they belong to, people who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events, people with diminished cognitive ability, power relations between researchers and participants etc.)? If they are, state what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants.

NO

2.4(b) CHILD PARTICIPANTS (anyone under 18 years old)

*If your participants include children, you **must** confirm that you are in compliance with the research specific guidelines as detailed in "Keeping Children Safe - Policies and Procedures supporting Child Protection at DCU" - available at: https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child%20protection%20handbook_rev1%282%29%281%29.pdf*

Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	Mark here
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures	N/A
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research	N/A
We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)	N/A

2.5 EXPLAIN HOW PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE RECRUITED

Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application.

Friends and family of Ben Kelly will be asked in person to complete a questionnaire and simple tests which will take no longer than 10 minutes for my 4th year project. All participants will already be aware of the nature of my degree course and will be informed that it is for the user testing part of my project.

2.6 PLEASE EXPLAIN WHEN, HOW, WHERE, AND TO WHOM RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ANY INFORMATION AS TO THE FINDINGS OR OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT?

The results will be the answers the participants will provide to the questions they will be asked. Along with the times it took them to complete the specific tasks. The information will be used for conclusions made in the testing document of the app which will be accessible to anyone with access to the gitlab.computing.dcu.ie.
The users' names will not be recorded and therefore not distributed. So anonymity will be kept.

2.7 ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION ETC.?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please specify from whom and attach a copy of the approval documentation. If this is not yet available, please explain when this will be obtained.)

--

2.8 HAS A SIMILAR PROPOSAL BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE DCU SCEC?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please state both the REC Application Number and Project Title)

--

3. RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 JUSTIFICATION OF STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

You must provide a justification for the stated level of risk, as indicated on the cover page of your application. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the research itself. For further information on risk levels, please refer to the Levels of Review information on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>

N/A as notification only.

3.2 DOES THE RESEARCH INVOLVE:

	YES or NO
• use of a questionnaire? (attach copy)?	YES
• interviews (attach interview questions)?	NO
• observation of participants without their knowledge?	NO
• participant observation (provide details in section 2)?	YES
• audio- or video-taping interviewees or events?	NO
• access to personal and/or confidential data (including student, patient or client data) without the participant's specific consent?	NO
• administration of any stimuli, tasks, investigations or procedures which may be experienced by participants as physically or mentally painful, stressful or unpleasant during or after the research process?	NO
• performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression?	NO
• investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	NO
• procedures that involve deception of participants?	NO
• administration of any substance or agent?	NO
• use of non-treatment of placebo control conditions?	NO
• collection of body tissues or fluid samples?	NO
• collection and/or testing of DNA samples?	NO
• participation in a clinical trial?	NO
• administration of ionising radiation to participants?	NO

3.3 POTENTIAL RISKS TO PARTICIPANTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks to participants (physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, etc.), associated with the proposed research. Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.

N/A

3.4 ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY BENEFITS (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THIS RESEARCH?

YES or NO

NO

(If YES, provide details.)

3.5 ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO RESEARCHERS?

Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, research being undertaken in certain locations, researchers working alone in isolated areas, etc.

YES or NO

NO

(If YES, please describe and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.)

--

3.6 DEALING WITH ADVERSE/UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

Please describe what measures/protocols you have put in place in the event that there are any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the project.

N/A

3.7 HOW WILL THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT BE MONITORED?

Please explain how the principal investigator will monitor the conduct of the project (especially where several people are involved in recruiting or interviewing, administering procedures, etc.) to ensure that it conforms with the procedures set out in this application. In the case of student projects please give details of how the supervisor(s) will monitor the conduct of the project.

N/A

3.8 SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Depending on risks to participants you may need to consider having additional support for participants during/after the study. Consider whether your project would require additional support, e.g., external counselling available to participants. Please advise what support will be available.

N/A

3.9 DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?

YES or NO

NO

(If YES, please provide further details.)

--

3.10 DO ANY OF THE RESEARCHERS ON THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO

YES

(If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

As this is for my 4th year project it would obviously be better if the app is usable. So inherently there is a slight bias involved but the integrity of the testing and honest feedback is more important than the outcome of the testing.

4. INVESTIGATORS' QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS (Approx. 200 words)

List the academic qualifications and outline the experience and skills relevant to this project that the PI, other researchers and any supporting staff have in carrying out the research and in dealing with any emergencies, unexpected outcomes, or contingencies that may arise. **State specifically who will be carrying out the research procedures**

Ben Kelly will be carrying out all aspects of this user testing. He is completing is BSc in Computer Applications as part of this project.

I don't foresee any emergency situations arising from a 10-minute questionnaire and timing exercise. However, if an unlikely emergency was to arrive I will have contact with the emergency services available via my mobile phone.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY

5.1 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

YES or NO

NO

(If NO, please explain why.)

The individuals name will be protected but their demographics (age, computing ability, languages spoken) will used

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 5.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

5.2 HOW WILL THE ANONYMITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE RESPECTED?

Please bear in mind that where the sample size is very small, it may be impossible to guarantee anonymity/confidentiality of participant identity. Participants involved in such projects need to be advised of this limitation in the Plain Language Statement/Information Sheet. If you intend to fully anonymize the data, please provide details

Anonymity will tried to be kept however the users demographics will be used, names will not be recorded or kept on record as the survey will be anonymous and the timed aspect of the testing will not take note of the user's name, just their age computing ability, languages spoken

5.3 LEGAL LIMITATIONS TO DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants need to be made aware that confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. This information should be included in your Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form. Depending on the research proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations

Participants will be asked in writing to agree for their demographics to be used

6. PERSONAL DATA - COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

Personal data is data relating to a living individual (i.e. the 'Data Subject') who is, or can be, identified either from the data itself or from the data in conjunction with other information that is in, or is likely to come into, the possession of the 'Data Controller' (i.e. DCU and its constituent units e.g. research teams etc.). Further information on personal data is available from the DCU Data Protection Unit at <https://www.dcu.ie/ocoo/dp/guides.shtml>

6.1 IS PERSONAL DATA BEING PROCESSED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT?

YES or NO
YES

<i>If YES, Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:</i>	Mark here
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with DCU Data Protection Unit guidance and procedures regarding personal data	YES
We confirm that we have put in place a Personal Data Security Schedule (PDSS) for the project and have attached it to this application	YES

Please see the GDPR and the Research Ethics Process section of the [SCEC main webpage](#) for guidance

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 6.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

6.2 WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL DATA IS BEING PROCESSED?

Note special categories of personal data include health data, genetic data and/or data relating to ethnicity/race of participants, their sex lives and/or sexual orientation

age, computing ability, languages spoken
--

6.3 WILL ANONYMISATION/PSEUDONYMISATION OF THE PERSONAL DATA BE UNDERTAKEN?

YES or NO
YES

(If NO, please explain why.)

--

7. DATA/SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section, "Data" includes that in a raw or processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis). "Samples" include body fluids or tissue samples.

7.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA/SAMPLES BE STORED?

Note that the SCEC recommends that all data be stored on campus – please justify any off-site storage.

Simple questionnaires on paper will be filled out which will then be transferred to an electronic document at [gitlab.computing.dcu.ie](https://gitlab.com/computing.dcu.ie), the paper copies will then be destroyed. The data will be accessible to anyone with access to [gitlab.computing.dcu.ie](https://gitlab.com/computing.dcu.ie)

7.2 WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO DATA/SAMPLES?

If people other than the main researchers have access, please name who they are and explain for what purpose.

The data will be accessible to anyone with access to [gitlab.computing.dcu.ie](https://gitlab.com/computing.dcu.ie)

7.3 HOW LONG IS THE DATA TO BE HELD/RETAINED FOR?

Note that with very few exceptions **personal data** may not be retained indefinitely. It is up to the unit or research team to establish an upper retention limit for each category of personal data under its control.

The data will be destroyed after the project is completed, end of June 2019 the testing document with participants' data will be removed.

7.4 IF DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM THIS WILL BE DONE?

Note that simply deleting files is not sufficiently secure. The additional steps to be taken to maintain data security should be given. **Personal data** must be disposed of in a safe and secure manner at the end of its retention period. If the data is stored in a: a) paper based format then shredding or disposal via a secure bin is recommended; or b) if it is stored in an electronic based format then deletion of the record or full anonymization of the data is recommended. If data/samples are NOT being disposed of, please justify this decision.

The paper copies will be shredded and disposed of in a secure bin. The data will be anonymized for publishing on the testing document. The only documents where the age of participants will be the paper copies. Used for analysis and then destroyed when the analysis is completed within a couple of hours of the tests being completed.

8. FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH

8.1 HOW IS THIS WORK BEING FUNDED, IF IT IS EXTERNALLY FUNDED?

NO

8.2 PROJECT GRANT NUMBER *(If relevant and/or known – otherwise mark as N/A)*

N/A

8.3 DOES THE PROJECT REQUIRE APPROVAL BEFORE CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING BY A GRANTING BODY?

YES or NO

NO

8.4.1 HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE INFORMED OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDING? *(e.g. included in the Plain Language Statement)*

N/A

8.5 DO THE FUNDERS OF THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO

NO

(If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

A Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in all cases. This is written information in plain language that you will be providing to participants, outlining the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. Please note that the language used must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level – if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adults and children) then separate forms should be prepared for each group. The PLS can be embedded in an email to which an online survey is attached, or handed/sent to individuals in advance of their consent being sought. See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml>

PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN YOUR PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT/ INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS:

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (PI and researcher names, school, title of the research)	YES
What is this research about?	YES
Why is this research being conducted?	YES
What will happen if the person decides to participate in the research study?	YES
How will their privacy be protected?	YES
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of?	YES
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality?	NO
What are the benefits of taking part in the research study (if any)?	NO
What are the risks of taking part in the research study?	NO
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study	YES
How will participants find out what happens with the project?	YES
Contact details for further information (including SCEC contact details)	YES
Details relating to GDPR Compliance if Personal Data is being sought	NO

If any of these issues are marked NO, please justify their exclusion:

Legal limitations will not be necessary for this simple questionnaire.
There are no benefits for the participant for partaking
There are no risks for taking part.
GDPR Compliance is not being sought

In most cases where interviews or focus groups are taking place, an Informed Consent Form is required. This is an important document requiring participants to indicate their consent to participate in the study, and give their signature. If your participants are minors (under 18), it is best practice to provide them with an assent form, while their parents/guardians will be given the Informed Consent Form. In cases where an anonymous questionnaire is being used, it is enough to include a tick box in the questionnaire (underneath the information section for participant), where participants can indicate their consent.

See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml>

NB – IF AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.

[illegible]

PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT

1. Introduction to the Research Study

- This research is being conducted as part of the user testing for Ben Kelly's fourth year project 'SmartPredict'.
- The research is being conducted by Ben Kelly, a BSc student in the School of Computing, in DCU.
- The research aims to measure the usability of the WebApp SmartPredict
- Ben Kelly can be contacted at ben.kelly45@mail.dcu.ie

2. Details of Involvement in the Study

- Participants will be required to be available for a short questionnaire and a short timing exercise where they will be asked to perform some simple tasks on the provided WebApp.
- In total the questionnaire and timing exercise will less than 10 minutes in total.
- The researcher will record how long it takes you to complete some simple tasks.
- This will take place in between March - April 2019

3. Potential Risks to Participants arising from involvement in the Research Study

- It is not envisaged that there are any risks to participants arising from involvement in the study.

4. Benefits (direct or indirect) to Participants

- Apart from aiding the researcher in completing their user testing it is envisaged that there will be no benefit to participants.

5. Procedures aimed at protecting confidentiality

- Every effort will be made to respect participants' anonymity.
- The data collected will be analysed by the principal researcher alone.
- Participants' actual names will be protected.
- Transcripts of the questionnaire & timing exercise will be held by the principal researcher and stored in a secure location until they are deemed non-essential and then destroyed.

6. Data Destruction

- It is planned that the data will be destroyed within six months from the time you take the questionnaire and time exercise.

7. Voluntary Participation

- Participants may withdraw from the Research Study at any point. There will be no penalty for withdrawing before all stages of the Research Study have been completed

8. Additional Information

- It is envisaged that in total approximately ten participants will be interviewed as part of this study.

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Office of the Vice-President for Research, Dublin City University, Dublin 9.

Tel 01-7008000

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Research Study Title

The study in which you are being is part of a broader testing format for the WebApp 'SmartPredict' Trading Platform. It is being conducted by Ben Kelly, a BSc student in the School Computing, in DCU.

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to measure how usable and enjoyable the user interface of SmartPredict is.

Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement

As stated in the Plain Language Statement, participants in this research will be requested to participate in a short questionnaire and a short timing exercise where they will be asked to perform some simple tasks on the provided WebApp.

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)

Have you read or had read to you the Plain Language Statement	Yes/No
Do you understand the information provided?	Yes/No
Have you had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study?	Yes/No
Have you received satisfactory answers to all your questions?	Yes/No
Do you agree to have your answered questionnaire used for research purposes?	Yes/No
Do you agree to have the time it takes you to complete tasks recorded?	Yes/No

Participants' involvement in this study is totally voluntary. As a participant you may withdraw from the Research Study at any point. **There will be no penalty for withdrawing** before all stages of the Research Study have been completed.

Arrangements to protect confidentiality of data

Every effort will be made to respect participants' anonymity. The data collected will be analysed by the principal researcher alone. Participants' actual names will be protected. Transcripts of the questionnaire & timing exercise will be held by the principal researcher and stored in a secure location until they are deemed non-essential and then destroyed.

Signature

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this research project

Participant's Signature: _____

Name in Block Capitals: _____

Date: _____

Questionnaire (draft)

The following questions on this page will ask you how you found the overall layout of the application on a scale from 1 to 5. Please place an 'X' in the appropriate box.

- 1 - I strongly disagree
- 2 - I disagree
- 3 - Neutral
- 4 - I agree
- 5 - I strongly agree

Question	1	2	3	4	5
I use the web frequently					
I found the format of the application well-structured and easy to use					
The buttons and text displayed on the application are very readable					
The help section is useful					
I could jump right into the app without any instruction/help					
I was able to complete the tasks on the quickly and easily on the app					
The system gave me error messages whenever I expected them to and informed me on how to fix the issue					
Whenever I made a mistake/error while using the app I could reverse/revert the action intuitively and quickly					
It was easy to find the information I wanted					
The organisation of the information was clear and readable					
I found the interface enjoyable					
Overall, I am satisfied with how easy it was to use the app					
I would use the application in the real world					

TIMED EXERCISE

****For the use of the researcher only****

TASK

TIME ACHIEVED IN

Registration:

Login:

Connect API key to app:

Move to user's Dashboard

Check current price of BitCoin

Check the current sentiment of Cryptocurrency market

Check what the price prediction is advising you to do

Deposit money:

Make a trade:

Logout:
