

Participant Informed Consent

This document contains details about this research study. Feel free to ask any questions you may have. Participation is **voluntary**; you are free to choose not to participate or withdraw at any time without consequence.

Study Title: Examining the Effects of Virtual Avatar Visibility on Pointing Comprehension

Person(s) Conducting the Study:

Principal Investigator: Dr. Eric Ragan, CISE (eragan@ufl.edu)

Co-Investigator: William (Brett) Benda, CISE (brett.benda@ufl.edu)

Purpose of the study:

This research seeks to understand how humans perceive and interpret pointing in virtual environments. This research will allow digital application designers and researchers to design more realistic and immersive experiences.

What you will be asked to do:

You will be asked to examine different styles of avatars and make judgements about where in the environment they are pointing. You will be required to download and run a simple Unity game engine application on a desktop or laptop computer. You will be asked several demographic questions such as age and experience with games. Afterwards, you will be asked some questions about your experience completing the task.

A log of responses will be collected from the game application, and survey responses afterwards. No other information will be collected or transmitted from the application

Time required:

One session, up to 60 minutes.

Risks and benefits:

Minimal risk is involved as a participant. You will only be using a computer

Only the researchers will have access to the information we collect online. There is a minimal risk that security of any online data may be breached, but since no identifying information will be collected, and the online host (Qualtrics) uses encryption and other forms of protections, it is unlikely that a security breach of the online data will result in any adverse consequence for you.

There are no direct benefits to participating in this study. However, data we collect will help us and future developers create better applications.

Compensation:

If you are participating for credit in an approved course, you are eligible to receive course credit as compensation in this study. The credit granted will be based on the course guidelines set by your instructor up to but not exceeding 2% of your final grade

for the course. It may be necessary to provide a UFID to verify your identity before credit can be granted.

Otherwise, participation in this study is permitted on a volunteer basis with no compensation given.

Withdrawal from the study:

You are free to withdraw your consent from the study and stop your participation at any moment for any reason without consequence. Any questions asked will be optional. If you choose to withdraw, your information will be discarded and destroyed.

If you wish to discuss anything above or any discomforts your experience, please ask questions now or contact one of the researchers listed above.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, please contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB02) office ((352) 392-0433 or irb2@ufl.edu.)

Agreement to participate:

After reading the above information, you must agree to participate on the study website.