Dublin City University
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROJECT INVOLVING **HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

Application No. *(office use only)* DCUREC/2020/____

Please read the following information carefully before completing your application. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will make your submission ineligible for review.

- **Applications must be e-mailed to the DCU Research Ethics Committee at rec@dcu.ie** –no hardcopy required**.**
- **Student applicants must cc their supervisor on that e-mail** – this applies to all masters by research and PhD students. The form should be checked, approved and signed by the supervisor in advance of submission to REC. ***NB – Taught Masters and Undergraduate students apply for ethical review via their local review panels, not via REC.***
- **The application should consist of one electronic file only,** with an electronic signature from the PI. The completed application must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially that being given to the proposed participants. It must be proofread and spellchecked before submission to the REC**.**
- **All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.**

Applications which do not adhere to all of these requirements will not be accepted for review and will be returned directly to the applicant.

Applications must be completed on the form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hardcopy applications will be accepted. **Research must not commence until written approval has been received from the Research Ethics Committee.**

Note: If your research requires approval from the Biosafety Committee (BSC), or review by the School of Nursing and Human Sciences Ethics Advisory Committee (SNHSEAC), this must be in place prior to REC submission. Please attach the responses from these committees to this submission as directed below.

PROJECT TITLE	CA326 Third Year Project – Spoiler Alert
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) *The named Principal Investigator is the person with primary responsibility for the research project. In the case of Taught Masters projects the supervisor is the Principal Investigator.*	Dearbhla Cunnion, Cormac Duggan
START AND END DATE	02/03/2020 until the 04/03/2020
LEVEL OF RISK *Please indicate whether this project requires (a) notification (b) expedited **or** (c) full committee review. Justification for your choice is required under section 3.1*	(a) Notification

Please confirm that <u>all</u> 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	**YES**	
Plain language statement/Information Statement	**YES**	
Informed Consent form	**YES**	
Personal Data Security Schedule		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey	**YES**	
Interview/Focus Group Questions		**N/A**
Debriefing material		**N/A**
Other (e.g. BSC approval, SNHSEAC review letter)		N/A

Please note:

1. Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior REC approval.
2. As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to the Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee 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: (mark Y to as many as apply)	Research Project	…	Funded Consultancy	…
			Clinical Trial	…
	Student Research Project (please indicate level, e.g. PhD/MSc Research)	… Y	Other - Please Describe:	…
	PhD / Other Doctorate	…		
	MSc Research	…		

1.1 INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): *Doctoral researchers and Research Masters or their supervisors may be listed as Principal Investigators, depending on the conventions of the discipline and on the individual case. It should be made clear, in subsequent sections of this application, who is carrying out the research procedures.*

NAME	*SCHOOL/UNIT*	*EMAIL*
Dearbhla Cunnion	DCU School of Computing	Dearbhla.cunnion2@mail.dcu.ie
Cormac Duggan	DCU School of Computing	Cormac.duggan27@mail.dcu.ie

OTHER INVESTIGATORS:

NAME	*SCHOOL/UNIT*	*EMAIL*
Renaat Verbruggen	DCU School of Computing	Renaat.verbruggen@dcu.ie

1.2 WILL THE RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY?

YES or NO
… **YES**

(If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section 2.7.)

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 REC 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.

Electronic Signature(s):

Principal investigator(s): Dearbhla Cunnion, Cormac Duggan

Print Name(s) here: Dearbhla Cunnion, Cormac Duggan

Date:07 – 02 -2020

2. PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION *(Approx. 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.

Our project is a spoiler blocker Google Chrome extension that reads an online article and blurs and text that is deemed to be a spoiler for a TV show or movie. Participants will be asked to download the app via the Google Chrome web store and then input the movie or TV show that they do not want spoiled. They will then be asked to search Google for any articles pertaining to their inputted title and see if spoilers are blurred on the article. They will be asked to do this for three different titles and give their opinion on efficiency of the app. They will then be asked to fill in a questionnaire pertaining to the app, regarding user interface and accuracy.

2.2 AIMS OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESEARCH *(Approx. 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 this project is to block any identified spoilers in online articles related to the user's given TV show and/or movie. Currently, due to the increase of social media use and advanced hacking tools, movies and TV show spoilers are everywhere on the web. This can ruin the spectacle of seeing these titles for the first time. With franchises such as the Avengers and Netflix shows such as Peaky Blinders, now more than ever there is an increased demand for an application that can ensure that a viewer's favourite movies and TV shows are not ruined by spoilers.

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.

The participant will be asked to partake in a direct observation where we will observe their use of our Chrome web extension. After this the participant will be sent an email with an anonymous survey to gather their opinions on the application. All of this is expected to take no more than 15 minutes of the participant's time. We will aim to have five different users test our application by the above methods. After the direct observation has taken place, the participant will be allowed to answer the survey privately and anonymously. We will take notes of our own while the direct observation is happening. The survey results, however, will be analysed after all participants have completed it, to ensure anonymity. The survey will ask questions regarding the user interface and accuracy of the application.

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.

The age of the participants tested will ideally be within the 18 – 30 range as we believe this to be the main age range of a target audience of movie goers and fans of TV shows, however this is not necessarily inclusive. We will source participants from DCU as we can post in DCU Facebook groups asking for participants and also students will likely be in our targeted age range. We plan to survey and observe five people as we feel like, given our time schedule this is the ideal number of participants that can give us a varied response.

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_protection_handbook_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	
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research	
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)	

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.

We plan to recruit participants via recruitment advertisements on Facebook groups. See attached recruitment advertisement.

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?

Participants will not be provided with information regarding the findings or outcome of the project unless it is specifically requested.

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 REC?

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

There is little to no risk to research participants. No personal data will be taken nor will nor will participants be subjected to any traumatic or emotional events,

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.

There will be no potential risks to participants, neither physical, psychological, social, legal or economic.

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.

As there isn't much potential for physical or mental harm the worst case scenario is that someone has a movie spoiled for them which is the essence of the purpose of our testing. As such we can't prevent this and will need to apologize if anyone is upset from this outcome.

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.

During the direct observation we will both monitor the participants use and ensure everything conforms with the procedures set out in the application. Participants will be given our emails if they need to contact us with either questions or concerns.

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.

Our contact information will be made available to all participants if they have any concerns, but this research is not expected to require any additional emotional support.

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
…
NO

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

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***

Both principle investigators qualified in third year in computer applications DCU.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY

5.1 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

YES or NO
…
YES

(If NO, please explain why.)

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

As the sample size is quite small it is impossible to guarantee anonymity of the participant's identity. However, the survey provided will not require the participants name or any personal information apart from age. Both researchers will participate in the direct observation of the participant however the name and identity of the participant will not be shared and will be protected in the utmost confidence. This will all be outlined in the plain language statement and recruitment advertisement.

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

The participant will be informed of these limitations via the plain language statement and informed consent form.

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

If YES, Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	**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 REC 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

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

All information will be stored on a private Google Drive that only the two principle investigators will have access to.

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 two principle investigators will have access to the data and there is also a possibility of the project supervisor, Renaat Verbruggen, being given access in the case of a third opinion being needed to analyse results.

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.*

Data will be retained until after our project demo. This demo is expected to be held sometime between 9/3/2020 to 20/3/2020. After the demo has been presented, all data will be disposed of.

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 Google Drive folder in which data will be stored will be deleted and we aim to have close to full anonymization. The Google drive bin in which deleted files are stored will also be cleared to ensure that none of the data remains.

8. FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH

8.1 HOW IS THIS WORK BEING FUNDED?

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

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

YES or NO
…

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

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
…

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

9. PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT *(Attach to this document. Approx. 400 words)*

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?	**YES**
What are the benefits of taking part in the research study (if any)?	**YES**
What are the risks of taking part in the research study?	**YES**
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 REC contact details)	**YES**
Details relating to GDPR Compliance if Personal Data is being sought	

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

10. INFORMED CONSENT FORM *(Attach to this document. Approx. 300 words)*

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.

Plain Language Statement

Research Study: CA326 third year project – Spoiler Alert
University Department: DCU School of Computing
Principle Investigator(s): Dearbhla Cunnion, Cormac Duggan
Other Investigator(s): Renaat Verbruggen
Contact Details: dearbhla.cunnion2@mail.dcu.ie
cormac.duggan27@mail.dcu.ie
renaat.verbruggen@dcu.ie

The aim of this study is to gather user data on our third year project, Spoiler Alert. The premise of the project is to create a Google Chrome web extension that will blur any identified spoiler text given an inputted TV show or movie. The user should not be able to see any spoilers for the given title but should have the option to "unblock" the spoiler and reveal it. The results of this study will be kept for evaluation purposes and then deleted once results have been analysed. This study is being conducted for research purposes and to gather data that could help improve the current state of the application. Participants will be asked to partake in a direct observation and then fill out an anonymous survey. The direct observation will consist of the participant downloading the application via the Google Chrome web store and then inputting a movie or TV show into the applications search bar. They will then be asked to search for an article regarding this title and see if spoilers are successfully blocked. Participants will then be asked to try and "unblock" the spoiler by clicking on the blurred piece of text. Participants will be asked to carry out this process for three different TV shows and/or movies. All of this will be observed by the principle investigators. The participant will then be sent an anonymous survey to complete. After all participants have completed the direct observation and survey, the principle investigators will analyse their answers.
The principle investigators will be aware of the participant during the direct observation, however the survey will be anonymous. All data is kept in strict confidentiality and will be deleted after the project demo, around the 20th of March 2020. Data will be disposed of via deletion of all files and the clearing of all bins in which the deleted files are moved to. Survey answers will be disposed of and no record of any participants will be kept. Due to the small sample size, a participant's privacy/anonymity cannot be guaranteed, but we aim to ensure as much anonymity as possible. The only personal information you will be asked is the participants email and age however, this data will be deleted after the project demo.
Participants should be 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. There are not expected to be any risks involved in this research study. Involvement in this research study is entirely voluntary. Any participant is free to withdraw from the study at any time, without any penalty enforced on them. Any data collected will also be deleted.
Participants will not be informed of the results of the project, however if any participants wish to be informed of any outcomes of the study they may ask the principle investigators who will ensure to inform you on any updates.

For further information, please contact:
rec@dcu.ie
dearbhla.cunnion2@mail.dcu.ie
cormac.duggan27@mail.dcu.ie
renaat.verbruggen@dcu.ie

For information on GDPR compliance, please see:
https://www.dcu.ie/ocoo/dp/guides.shtml

Informed Consent Form

I. Research Study Title

The premise of the project is to create a Google Chrome web extension that will blur any identified spoiler text given an inputted TV show or movie. The user should not be able to see any spoilers for the given title but should have the option to "unblock" the spoiler and reveal it.

II. Purpose of the research

The results of this study will be kept for evaluation purposes and then deleted once results have been analysed. This study is being conducted for research purposes and to gather data that could help improve the current state of the application.

III. Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement

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

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.

VI. 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 and fake names will be used if direct references are required. Interview notes and/or transcripts will be held by the principal researcher and stored in a secure location. VII. 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

VII. 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.
Participants Signature: _____
Name in Block Capitals: _____
Date: _____

Survey

What three movies and/or TV shows did you input into the application?
Did you find that spoilers pertaining to these titles were sufficiently blocked?
If no, please state what spoilers were missed.
Were you able to unblock the spoiler by clicking the blurred text?
What did you think of the user interface? (Colours, size of text, ease of use, etc.)
Was the search system able to effectively find the movie/ TV show you inputted?
Were you able to turn off spoilers for the given movie? TV show?
Was there an evident slowdown in loading times for web pages?
Overall, what did you think of the application?
Any additional comments/feedback?

Recruitment Advertisement

We are looking for participants to take part in a direct observation and survey regarding our third year project. Our project is a spoiler blocker Google Chrome Web extension that aims to block any possible spoiler text in articles online that pertain to a user's chosen content that they wish not to have spoiled. Participation is strictly confidential and all data received will be deleted after the 20th of March 2020. For more information please contact either of us at dearbhla.cunnion2@mail.dcu.ie or cormac.duggan27@mail.dcu.ie. We look forward to hearing from you.