Computer & Information Sciences & Engineering

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**A Walk in the Woods**

**Participant Informed Consent**

*In this study we would like to explore how we could simulate the audio one would hear on a walk through nature realistically. This study will lay the foundation for research in 3D Audio.*

The study will take place during a convenient time of your choosing in the SoundPAD Lab (CSE 313A) and/or the HCC@UF User Studies Lab (CSE 520A). You should be 18 years of age or older to participate in this study.

In this study, you will first be given a brief hearing test. This test is generalized for the purposes of this study, and is not to be used in place of an actual audiometry reading. Furthermore, the results of the hearing test should not be used to diagnose or contradict any medical diagnosis. If you do not pass the hearing test, this will conclude your participation in the study.

After the successful completion of the hearing test, you will use our program. You will go on a virtual walk through various biomes. As you pass through these biomes, you will hear 3D Audio of sounds corresponding to the biome you are in. As you reach certain points on your virtual walk, you will be able to choose your path in order to decide which environment you would like to pass through. Your entire participation in this research study will take approximately 5 minutes. If at any time during the study, you no longer wish to participate; you can raise your hand and notify the researcher. The data collected during this session will be destroyed at your discretion. You may also take as many breaks as needed to complete the tasks.

**Data Collection:** We will gather data by giving you a survey after you complete your virtual walk. We will ask you about the audio you heard, in order to determine ideal placement of sounds and the realism of the program. We will ask about the volume of sounds in order to ensure that they are at an ideal level. We will also ask about the use of the implemented GUI, and if the experience with the program was smooth. We will not share your individual responses. The results will be presented in an aggregated, non-individualized format.

**Risks and Benefits:** There are no anticipated risks to you for participating in the research. There are no direct benefits to you for participating in the study.

Compensation will be provided as 1% extra credit added to your final grade in COP 3502. Although you may not receive direct benefit from your participation, others will ultimately benefit from the knowledge obtained through this research.The sounds you hear will not cause distress.

**Participant rights:**

1. You have the right to stop participation at any time. You may skip or refuse to answer any questions. You have the right to ask questions about the purposes and procedures of this research study at any time.
2. You can request at any time, during or after your participation, for any or all data collected during your participation in the session to be destroyed. The collected data is stored separately from any information that may be used to identify you.

**Confidentiality:** The information collected in this research project will be handled confidentially. Your name will not appear in any publications resulting from this work or in any descriptions of the project or its results. Your name will not appear on any material about this project that is presented to others. Any of your identifying information will be stored separately from the data, in a locked, secure location at The University of Florida. Your identity will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law.

You may ask any questions concerning this research and have those questions answered before agreeing to participate in or during the research study. Please feel free to contact the P.I. **Dr. Kyla McMullen** at 352-392-1500 or **kyla@cise.ufl.edu** if you have any questions or concerns about the research study design.

**You are voluntarily making a decision whether or not you would like to participate in this research study. Your consent to participate indicates that you have read the information presented. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.**

Please sign your name and print the date. Please return the attached portion of the letter to the researchers as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

For information regarding your rights as a research participant, contact the IRB office at 352-392-0433. For further questions concerning the study please contact **Dr. Kyla McMullen**; ***301-318-4302***; **drkyla@ufl.edu.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_