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Implementation of Python for CS Unplugged “Plugging it in” Information Sheet for Teachers

My name is Dana Lambert and I am a final year Software Engineering student at the University of Canterbury. I am currently working on my final year honors project in partnership with the Computer Science Education Research Group at the University of Canterbury. A website CS Unplugged provides teaching material for teaching computer science without a computer. Another aspect of the website “Plugging it in” presents programming exercises to complete following an unplugged exercise. The project is to integrate interactive Python exercises into the website “CS Unplugged” as part of “Plugging it in”. We have implemented a prototype and would like to obtain some professional feedback from teachers to see if it would be effective in the classroom.

You have been approached to take part in this study to provide your professional opinion on the effectiveness of the “Plugging it in” prototype.

If you choose to take part in this survey, you will get access to the prototype “Plugging it in” system (<https://cs-unplugged-dev.appspot.com/en/plugging-it-in/>) where you can test the system and try out some exercises. For the purposes of the survey, it is asked that you try the Python exercises, not the Scratch exercises. We will then ask you to fill out a short survey to collect some background on your experience around CS Unplugged, the classroom environment and provide feedback and discuss your experience. The survey is administered via Qualtrics and is expected to take around 8-10 min to complete in total. The survey will remain open to complete until the 4th September.

You will also have an opportunity to opt in for a semi structured interview via Zoom following the survey. A small number of those who opt in (fewer than 10) will be chosen to participate. The interview will allow you to further discuss and elaborate on your experience and thoughts regarding “Plugging it in” and is expected to take around 30 min. If you participate in an interview, you will have the opportunity to review and if necessary, amend your interview transcript, within a week once it has been made available. You will also be provided with a copy of the transcript.

Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any stage before September 27th without penalty. Beyond this date it is expected that part of the project will be ready for submission so you will be no longer able to withdraw. You may ask for your raw data regarding the interview to be returned to you or destroyed at any point before September 27th. If you withdraw, I will remove information relating to you regarding the interview. However, once analysis of raw interview data starts on the 14th September, it will become increasingly difficult to remove the influence of your data on the results.

The results of the project may be published, but you may be assured of the complete confidentiality of data gathered in this investigation: your identity will not be made public without your prior consent. To ensure anonymity and confidentiality, data will be anonymized before analysis and publication by assigning pseudonyms to all participants, and when data is published it will be aggregated. The data will be stored securely on a password protected computer with accessed only by Prof. Tim Bell and myself. Data will be destroyed at the end of the project.

Dana Lambert

Please indicate to the researcher on the consent form if you would like to receive a copy of the summary of results of the project.

The project is being carried out as a requirement for the course SENG402 – Software Engineering Research Project as part of a BE(Hons) in Software Engineering by Dana Lambert under the supervision of Prof. Tim Bell, who can be contacted at tim.bell@canterbury.ac.nz. He will be pleased to discuss any concerns you may have about participation in the project.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Educational Research Human Ethics Committee, and participants should address any complaints to The Chair, Educational Research Human Ethics Committee, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch (human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz).

If you agree to participate in the study, you are asked to complete the consent form within 5 working days of receiving it and return it to Dana Lambert by email at dla72@uclive.ac.nz or Tim Bell at tim.bell@canterbury.ac.nz. You can do this by taking a photo of the consent form or scanning the form. If you prefer you can post it to Tim Bell, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140.

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Implementation of Python for CS Unplugged “Plugging it in” Consent Form for Teachers

Please only tick the boxes that you agree to.

- ☐ I have been given a full explanation of this project and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
- ☐ I understand what is required of me if I agree to take part in the research.
- ☐ I understand that participation is voluntary, and I may withdraw at any time before September 27th without penalty. Beyond this date it is expected that part of the project will be ready for submission so I will no longer be able to withdraw. Additionally, once analysis of raw data starts on the 14th September, it will become increasingly difficult to remove the influence of your data on the results. Withdrawal of participation will also include the withdrawal of any information I have provided should this remain practically achievable.
- ☐ I understand that any information or opinions I provide will be kept confidential to the researcher the researcher and her supervisor and that any published or reported results will not identify the participants or the school involved.
- ☐ I understand that all data collected for the study will be kept in locked and secure facilities and/or in password protected electronic form and will be destroyed at the end of the project.
- ☐ I am happy to be potentially contacted following the survey to participate in a semi-structured interview.
- ☐ If I participate in an interview, I will have the opportunity to review and if necessary, amend my interview transcript within a week once it has been made available. I will also be provided with a copy of the transcript.
- ☐ I understand that I can contact the researcher Dana Lambert at dla72@uclive.ac.nz or supervisor Tim Bell at tim.bell@canterbury.ac.nz for further information. If I have any complaints, I can contact the Chair of the University of Canterbury Educational Research Human Ethics Committee, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch (human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz)
- ☐ I would like a summary of the results of the project.
- ☐ By signing below, I agree to participate in this research project.

Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Email address (for report of findings, if requested): _____

Please complete this form within 5 working days of receiving it, and return it to Dana Lambert by email at dla72@uclive.ac.nz or Tim Bell at tim.bell@canterbury.ac.nz. You can do this by taking a photo of the consent form or scanning the form. If you prefer you can post it to Tim Bell, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140. Please contact Tim Bell if you would like a Freepost return envelope sent to you.

Dana Lambert