

CONSENT LETTER FOR ENROLLING PARTICIPANTS IN A RESEARCH STUDY

School of Interactive Computing
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

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Dear Subject,

You are being asked to participate in a research study. The study is for a project titled “Modeling and Adapting to Player Behavior and Preferences in Games”. The principle investigator on the project is Dr. Mark Riedl.

We are studying techniques for automatically adjusting games to player preferences and gameplay behavior. Game players often have different preferences for the content in their games or have differing abilities in playing games. Our work is developing techniques to automatically adjust content in games to these preferences and behaviors.

In this study, you will be playing several levels of a game and rating them in terms of several aspects such as being fun or boring.

The ultimate objective of our work is to adapt these technologies for systems that tailor educational and training materials to individuals. We need your assistance in this study to gather information about how well our techniques are working.

Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:

Anyone with access to a computer and the game website may participate.

Procedures:

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to play a game that occurs through levels. You may complete as many levels as you choose and stop at any time. You will be asked to provide ratings on your experience of the game and comparisons among pairs of levels you played. Example ratings include how challenging or fun the level was or ratings of how easy

the controls were to use. The task has no bounds on how long you spend, although we expect most people to spend around ten minutes in total.

Risks or Discomforts:

The risks involved are no greater than those involved in using a computer to play an online game.

Benefits:

We do not expect you will gain direct benefits from participating in the study. Our hope is to develop better artificial intelligence techniques to adapt games to player preferences and designer game design goals. In doing so, our work will benefit the broader academic community by developing ways to improve the use of games for entertainment, training, and engagement.

Compensation to You:

There is no compensation for this study.

Confidentiality:

Your privacy will be protected to the extent allowed by law. To protect your privacy, your records will be kept under a “session number.” We generate this number and assign it to your gameplay session when you first start the game. The mapping between your session number and other information (e.g. computer IP address) will not be stored. If you quit the game and play again you will be assigned a new session number and no information will link this to your prior session number. Your records will be kept in locked files. Only study staff will be allowed to look at them.

Your IP address or any other fact that might point to you will not appear when results of this study are presented. We are only interested in group information. The reporting of the results will only contain group mean results. It will not contain your personal information.

You may choose to email us. Only the experimenters listed at the bottom of this letter may read and reply to your email. Because emails may contain your name we will delete the emails once the study is complete. No link will be maintained that could connect your identity with your study responses.

To make sure that this research is being done properly, the Georgia Institute of Technology Internal Review Board (IRB) may review study records.

Costs to You:

There are no costs to you, other than your time.

In Case of Injury/Harm:

If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact the Principal Investigator, Mark Riedl, Ph.D. Neither the Principal Investigator nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

Participant Rights:

- Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about being in this study will be given to you.
- Please save a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights by signing this consent form.

Questions about the Study:

If you have any questions regarding the conduct or research goals of this study please contact one of the investigators listed on the bottom of this letter.

Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact:

Ms. Melanie Clark, Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of Research Compliance, at (404) 894-6942.

Ms. Kelly Winn, Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of Research Compliance, at (404) 385- 2175.

If you play the game that brought you to this letter, it means that you have read (or have had read to you) the information contained in this letter, and would like to be a volunteer in this research study.

Thank you!

Dr. Mark Riedl (riedl@cc.gatech.edu)

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