# PsychoPy versus E-Prime student survey 2011

The class of 2010-2011 in Psychology First Year Practicals (C81MST) at University of Nottingham were given one semester learning about how to conduct experiments using PsychoPy and another about how to run experiments using E-Prime.

We were keen to learn from this what the students thought of PsychoPy and how they thought it compared to E-Prime. These are the results of an anonymous online survey that the students filled out (N=60). The take home message seems to be that the students liked the software, indeed more than E-Prime on average, but that it still has room for improvement.

## Overall impressions

## How did the software compare to E-Prime?

## Were there things you didn't like about PsychoPy?

Didnt work at all on my own laptop.

The programme crashes spontaneously- When there is an error with how you have designed you're experiment it does not give useful/understandable information as to what the problem actually is.- Certain functions, such as the use of the '$' symbol seem arbitrary and make the software unneccessarily harder to use.- Having said this the software programme Eprime also crashes spontaneously and has it's own faults so it is difficult to judge which is 'better'.

I just found it was much more complicated. You had to be so precise when inputing commands etc, with all the different brackets and punctuation. If you went wrong somewhere it was almost impossible to find. And I can imagine the more complicated the experiment go, the more difficult it would be. I prefer eprime.

It was difficult to upload music files and manipulate them.

I liked getting to use both different types of software but I found that in E-prime it's a bit more user friendly but that doesn't mean to say I'd rather just use E-prime all the time as I did like to be able to use and create experiments in both.

There are a lot of options with PsychoPy which makes it some what difficult to know what you need to do. Also, when there is an issue with your experiment the error message doesn't tell you what's actually wrong! It just provides error code which is practically another language!

Over-complicated in some areas, the simpler the better...

There wasn't anything I particularly disliked about the software, but more teaching on all the various functions is definitely needed before I would feel confident constructing an experiment on my own, as currently I wouldn't be able to without assistance.

No was fine, just preferred eprime

It was quite clear, especially with the timeline format.

Simple

This is quite an early stage to decide& evaluate PsychoPy.

It was not as accessible as E-prime, the E-prime program was easier to use and was somewhat less confusing than the psychopy software.

I found it really difficult to remember how to do certain things, it isnt often very clear.

All good

I can't really remember how different it was to be honest but this term i have felt more in control of every detail of the experiment using E-Prime. I think this is because they don't try and oversimplify everything, which to me, is a good thing

Harder to understand