

## **Developer Views on Flaky Tests: Impacts, Causes, and Actions - Participant Information Sheet**

**Date: 11/06/2021**

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You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please contact us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The aim of this project is to understand the views of software developers regarding flaky tests, i.e., software tests that may pass or fail without any changes to the code under test. It is our intent to publish our findings such that they may direct future research in the area.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to agree to a consent form and answer a questionnaire containing 12 questions, which should take no longer than 15 minutes by our estimates. You can still withdraw at any time without any negative consequences by closing the questionnaire before you submit or, if you have already submitted, by contacting us.

Your personal data, if you choose to provide it, will be kept strictly confidential and will only be accessible to members of the research team from the University of Sheffield. You will not be identified in any reports or publications, though we may quote the words of your answers to any open ended questions. Your anonymous responses to the questionnaire will also be made publicly available as part of an aggregated data set. For this reason, you must not provide any information in your responses that could be used to identify you or anyone else.

According to data protection legislation, we are required to inform you that the legal basis we are applying in order to process your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' (Article 6(1)(e)). Further information can be found in the University's Privacy Notice:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>

The University of Sheffield is acting as the Data Controller for your data in this study. This means that the university is responsible for looking after your data, and ensuring it is used properly. This survey has been ethically reviewed via the University of Sheffield's Ethics Review Procedure, as administered by the Department of Computer Science. Please note that by choosing to participate in this research, this will not create a legally binding agreement, nor is it intended to create an employment relationship between you and the University of Sheffield.

If you have a complaint, or if something goes wrong, you should first contact the Principal Investigator ([oparry1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:oparry1@sheffield.ac.uk)). If you feel like your complaint has not been handled appropriately, you may contact the Head of the Department of Computer Science ([g.j.brown@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:g.j.brown@sheffield.ac.uk)), who will escalate it through the appropriate channels.