

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NON-BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

FeedMe: Friendsourced Link Sharing

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Michael Bernstein, Adam Marcus, David Karger and Rob Miller, from the EECS Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.). This research will contribute to a PhD dissertation on social computing. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are an active user of Google Reader and Firefox. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

• PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to choose whether to be in it or not. If you choose to be in this study, you may subsequently withdraw from it at any time without penalty or consequences of any kind. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

• PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

We have developed FeedMe to facilitate the link-sharing process among friends. In this field study, we are interested in evaluating the efficacy of the approach by asking volunteers to install the Firefox add-on and use it for a period of two weeks.

• PROCEDURES

If you volunteer to participate in this study, we would ask you to do the following things:

We ask that you install the FeedMe plug-in by following the instructions online, and fill out some baseline information about your reading habits. You will receive one of several versions of the add-on, randomly.

Then, use Google Reader every day or every other day to look at the posts that you normally would, and use the FeedMe plug-in to share relevant posts with your contacts.

At the conclusion of the study, we will hold a brief interview to learn more about your usage of FeedMe, and to get feedback about the system.

Participation in the study will occur over two weeks, and we will send you periodic emails to remind you to use the system. In addition, we may schedule a phone interview after one week to get your preliminary feedback.

- **POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS**

We do not foresee any major risks or discomforts as a result of this study. You are in control of which posts to forward on to your friends, and you can uninstall the add-on at any time if there is an unforeseen problem.

- **POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

We hope that you will enjoy using the tool, as well have increased abilities to share interesting web content with your friends.

This project will help us learn about designs for and barriers to sharing web content online. If the design is successful, we will release it publicly and allow anyone to use it.

- **PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION**

You will receive a total of \$30 for your participation in this field study, at the conclusion of the study. If you opt to leave the study before its conclusion, or if we must withdraw you from the study, we will prorate your payment based on the number of days participated since the beginning of the study.

- **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

Information in FeedMe will be kept confidential to the research team at MIT, behind a password-protected database maintained centrally by MIT CSAIL.

Aggregate statistics, selected comments on posts and quotes from the interviews may be used in scientific publications. If other usage is contemplated, we will contact you for permission.

We will be recording the interviews so that we have a record of them. By signing below, you agree to this recording. You have the right to review/edit the recordings if you wish; they will be available only to the research team. The recordings will be destroyed after 5 years.

- **IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATORS**

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact the FeedMe team at feedme@csail.mit.edu. Personally you may contact Michael Bernstein (msbernst@mit.edu), David Karger (karger@mit.edu), or Rob Miller (rcm@mit.edu).

- **EMERGENCY CARE AND COMPENSATION FOR INJURY**

If you feel you have suffered an injury, which may include emotional trauma, as a result of participating in this study, please contact the person in charge of the study as soon as possible.

In the event you suffer such an injury, M.I.T. may provide itself, or arrange for the provision of, emergency transport or medical treatment, including emergency treatment and follow-up care, as needed, or reimbursement for such medical services. M.I.T. does not provide any other form of compensation for injury. In any case, neither the offer to provide medical assistance, nor the actual provision of medical services shall be considered an admission of fault or acceptance of liability. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to MIT's Insurance Office, (617) 253-2823. Your insurance carrier may be billed for the cost of emergency transport or medical treatment, if such services are determined not to be directly related to your participation in this study.

- **RIGHTS OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS**

You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, or you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Chairman of the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects, M.I.T., Room E25-143B, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139, phone 1-617-253 6787.

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| SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH SUBJECT OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE |
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I understand the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

Name of Subject

Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)

Signature of Subject or Legal Representative

Date

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| SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR |
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In my judgment the subject is voluntarily and knowingly giving informed consent and possesses the legal capacity to give informed consent to participate in this research study.

Signature of Investigator

Date