

Consent Form for Research Participation

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Study Number: e.g., IRB20-7854

Study Title: Measuring the Effect of Culture on Usage of Encrypted Communication in India

Researcher(s): Nandini Bajaj, Ashish Gokarnakar

Collaborating Institutions: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Description: We are students at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur doing a research study about Measuring the Effect of Culture on Usage of Encrypted Communication in India.

The study will be defined on the method of Instant Messaging in communication as it has been proposed to be the most prominent and equally susceptible in terms of privacy and security.

The project scenario is set as inclusive of two famous instant messaging apps. One of which is Whatsapp and the other being Facebook Messenger. Whatsapp is an app that is known to prioritize its user's privacy based on the fact that all conversations on it are end-to-end encrypted. Facebook Messenger is a competitor of Whatsapp that focuses more on user satisfaction in terms of display appeal than user privacy, however it does have a hidden feature called secret messaging that employs end to end encryption which has low accessibility. We deploy our scenario by naming these applications in such a way so as to not cause any perception bias.

While recruiting individuals for answering our surveys we aim to focus on having representatives from multiple demographic and social backgrounds to ensure sufficient variance in the dimensions of culture.

In our survey we do not intend to ask any sensitive questions that might upset the participant. The survey aims at finding a link between social influence, culture and their impact on the usage of encrypted communication. Participation should take about 12 minutes to complete the survey with competence. Your participation is voluntary.

Incentives:

Every research participant will be offered Rupees 200 as appreciation for participation and effort. If all sections of the survey are not complete or we spot failure in performing at the attention checks you will not receive any incentive for participating in this study.

Risks and Benefits:

Your participation in this study does not involve any risk to you beyond that of everyday life. Taking part in this research study may not benefit you personally, but we may learn new things about human behaviour towards usage of encrypted communication, that could help others.

Confidentiality:

The individual responses noted in the survey will be stored in encrypted format for a year after it is coded for evaluation.

Results of this study may be used in publications and presentations. The study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. If the results of this study are published or presented then individual names and any other personal identifiable information will not be disclosed.

If you decide to withdraw from this study at any point of time, we will only use your pre-collected with your consent. If you agree to cooperate we may include the data collected until that point for analysis, otherwise we will destroy every trace of already collected data.

De-identified information from this study may be used for future research studies or shared with other researchers for future research without your additional informed consent.

Rights as a research participant:

Participation in the study is voluntary. You do not have to answer questions that you think would harm you personally. If at any point of time you prefer to withdraw your participation for any reason feel free to notify us, and it will cause no penalty.

We would encourage you to complete the survey in one go so that we can gain the best results from it.

Contacts & Questions:

If you have questions or concerns about the study, you can contact the researchers at

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If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research, feel you have been harmed, or wish to discuss other study-related concerns with someone who is not part of the research team, you can contact the researchers.

Consent:

By clicking “Agree” below, you confirm that you have read the consent form, are at least 18 years old, and agree to participate in the research. Please print or save a copy of this page for your records. Please fill the details below :

FULL NAME AND SIGNATURE:

EMAIL-ID:

AGE:

CITY OF RESIDENCE:

HOME STATE:

☐ I AGREE to participate in the research

☐ I do NOT AGREE to participate in the research

