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|  | Participant Consent Form |

We are <student\_names> and we invite you to participate in a study as part of the Empirical Methods in Software Engineering course (CSC578A/CSC485A/SENG480A) at UVic that is being taught by Dr. Margaret-Anne Storey. You can contact us via email at <student\_emails> or you can contact Dr. Storey directly by e-mail ([mstorey@uvic.ca](mailto:mstorey@uvic.ca)).

**Contacts**

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, please feel free to contact any of the members of our research team: <student\_names\_and\_emails> or reach out to our instructor Dr. Margaret-Anne Storey directly (mstorey@uvic.ca). You may also verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns by contacting the Human Research Ethics Ofce at the University of Victoria (+1 250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

**Participant Selection**

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are <a software developer/an employee at organization>.

**Involvement**

If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include answering this survey which *will be conducted via remote means (SurveyMonkey)*.

**Risks**

Participation in this study may cause some inconvenience to you, including brief distractions from your current activities. In order to minimize this inconvenience, the survey will be conducted online at your convenience. Please note that this research does not collect information about individual performance in any way.

**Benefits**

The potential benefits of your participation in this research include a better understanding of <study\_purpose\_here>.

**Voluntary Participation**

Your participation in this research must be completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time without consequences or any explanation. If you withdraw from the study your data will be not used in any research articles, and will be destroyed. The notes from interviews will also be destroyed.

**Anonymity**

Apart from identifying information collected by the researcher, your anonymity will be protected. The researchers will be the only persons that have access to this information. We will not inform your managers whether you chose to participate in the study or not. It is important that the researcher maintains a way to identify each piece of the data collected to enable follow-up with participants in subsequent phases of the research. This identifying information will be protected in the possession of the researcher.

**Confidentiality**

Your confidentiality and the confidentiality of the data will be protected by data being kept electronically on faculty of computer science departmental computers at the University of Victoria. No one other than the researchers will have access to information that identifies you with the research data.

Please be advised that information about you that is gathered for this research study (email address, name) uses an online program located in the U.S. or a program that can be accessed from the US (Zoom/Skype/SurveyMonkey). As such, there is a possibility that information about you may be accessed without your knowledge or consent by the US government in compliance with the US Freedom Act.

**Dissemination of Results**

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be shared with others in the following ways: presentations at scholarly meetings, published articles at conferences or journals as well as reports made available to your company. None of these reports will provide information to identify the participants or the company name. Publication drafts will be provided to the company, and the company reserves the right to obfuscate any company sensitive material from any resulting papers or publications. Data from this study will be disposed of after the course concludes on December 11th.

**Disposal of Data**

Data collected will be disposed upon the course’s conclusion on December 11th. All survey data collected and backups will be electronically deleted.

*By completing and submitting this survey,* ***YOUR FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT IS IMPLIED*** *and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study.*

You may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).