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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)).

**Purpose and Objectives**

<Study objective to be listed here>

**Importance of this Research**

There is still much work to be done in the field of Software Engineering research when it comes to replicating existing studies. While studies that highlight new results, methods, or tools help with advancing the literature, we still need to make sure that results, methods, or tools they report on generalize as well as they are claimed to do, and apply in different contexts.

**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 individual interviews and group meetings *that will be conducted via remote means (Zoom/Skype)*. <student\_names> will be conducting the interviews.

**Risks**

Participation in this study may cause some inconvenience to you, including brief distractions from your current activities (our interviews may last from half an hour to an hour, but we can schedule them for the duration of your choice). In order to avoid this inconvenience, the researcher will coordinate with you for when is the best time to participate in the research. 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.

**Ethics Protocol Approval**

In addition, 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](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca)).

Your signature below indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study, that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers, and that you consent to participate in this research project.

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| *Name of Participant* |  | *Signature* |  | *Date* |

***A copy of this consent will be left with you, and a copy will be taken by the researcher.***