

Research Ethics Checklist

Reference Id	13727
Status	Approved
Date Approved	24/11/2016

Researcher Details

Name	James Jamieson
School	Faculty of Science & Technology
Status	Undergraduate (BA, BSc)
Course	BSc Games Programming
Have you received external funding to support this research project?	No

Project Details

Title	Shop Manager Game
Proposed Start Date of Data Collection	01/11/2016
Proposed End Date of Project	08/05/2017
Supervisor	Alain Simons
Approver	Alain Simons

Summary - no more than 500 words (including detail on background methodology, sample, outcomes, etc.)

This project will be focused on developing a tile-based shop management game using the Unity Engine. The final vision of the game includes the player hiring employees as well as building and laying out a shop. Artificial intelligence is an essential part of the game and will be the main focus throughout the development. AI is so important because the player will not have direct control over their employees, or their customers, and therefore a good AI system is needed to keep the game realistic and the NPCs will be required to make correct decisions. The employees will need to decide what jobs to do, and the customers will need to find items, and decide whether to buy them. Due to the importance of AI, this game is going to be realistic and will be a very good simulation of a real-world shop environment. Because of this, my game can be altered to be a shop simulator which can be used for educational purposes in the retail world. I will keep referencing this idea throughout, as my game will have two purposes; one to be entertaining, and also to have the potential to be educational. Throughout the project, vast amounts of research will be done on AI, pathfinding, and decision making in games; as well as, research on the best ways to program games using Unity.

External Ethics Review

Does your research require external review through the NHS National Research Ethics Service (NRES) or through another external Ethics Committee?

No

Research Literature

Is your research solely literature based?

No

Human Participants

Will your research project involve interaction with human participants as primary sources of data (e.g. interview, observation, original survey)?

Yes

Does your research specifically involve participants who are considered vulnerable (i.e. children, those with cognitive impairment, those in unequal relationships—such as your own students, prison inmates, etc.)?

No

Does the study involve participants age 16 or over who are unable to give informed consent (i.e. people with learning disabilities)? NOTE: All research that falls under the auspices of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 must be reviewed by NHS NRES.

No

Will the study require the co-operation of a gatekeeper for initial access to the groups or individuals to be recruited? (i.e. students at school, members of self-help group, residents of Nursing home?)

No

Will it be necessary for participants to take part in your study without their knowledge and consent at the time (i.e. covert observation of people in non-public places)?

No

Will the study involve discussion of sensitive topics (i.e. sexual activity, drug use, criminal activity)?

No

Are drugs, placebos or other substances (i.e. food substances, vitamins) to be administered to the study participants or will the study involve invasive, intrusive or potentially harmful procedures of any kind?

No

Will tissue samples (including blood) be obtained from participants? Note: If the answer to this question is 'yes' you will need to be aware of obligations under the Human Tissue Act 2004.	No
---	----

Could your research induce psychological stress or anxiety, cause harm or have negative consequences for the participant or researcher (beyond the risks encountered in normal life)?	No
Will your research involve prolonged or repetitive testing?	No
Will the research involve the collection of audio materials?	No
Will your research involve the collection of photographic or video materials?	No
Will financial or other inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants?	No

Please give a summary of the ethical issues and any action that will be taken to address these. Explain how you will obtain informed consent (and from whom) and how you will inform the participant about the research project (i.e. participant information sheet).
Individuals will be asked to play and assess the program that will be created. They will do with willingly and will have the option to stop playing at any time, or to say no to the assessment. The individual's play through will not be recorded. Their job role will need to be recorded as the assessment will be conducted on persons who have no experience in the shop management role, as well as persons who are paid to manage shops, or shop environments, and a comparison will be compared with their responses.

Final Review

Will you have access to personal data that allows you to identify individuals OR access to confidential corporate or company data (that is not covered by confidentiality terms within an agreement or by a separate confidentiality agreement)?	No
Will your research involve experimentation on any of the following: animals, animal tissue, genetically modified organisms?	No
Will your research take place outside the UK (including any and all stages of research: collection, storage, analysis, etc.)?	No

Please use the below text box to highlight any other ethical concerns or risks that may arise during your research that have not been covered in this form.