EECS4441 Usability Study

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Office of Research Ethics   Kaneff Tower, Fifth Floor -- 4700 Keele Street,   ore@yorku.ca
York University   Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3   research.info.yorku.ca

Informed Consent Form

Date: November 23, 2023

Study Name: "Is dark mode better than light mode?": Comparing Effects of Light and Dark Modes on Reading and Memory Recall

Researcher name: Nia Rajnish, Jay Sharma, Jordan Wong, Priyanka Bhargav, Chin Yee Lai

Purpose of the Research:
The aim of the research is to evaluate the usability of a human-computer-interaction system. You will be presented with an application, which you will use to perform a specified task, after which you will respond to an anonymous questionnaire about your experience and demographic information. The results of the research will be presented in a course project report, journal, or at a conference. This study is conducted as part of a 400-level human-computer-interaction course at York University.

What You Will Be Asked to Do in the Research:

Online Research/Survey
You will interact with an online application (e.g., its user interface) by using it to perform a specified task for 16 minutes from the comfort of your home or office. Your interaction will be automatically logged by software. When you are done, you will be asked to provide feedback on your interaction through an anonymous questionnaire. You will also be asked to provide key demographic information such as age, and years of internet usage in the questionnaire. Prior to your completing the questionnaire, you will be given a participant code, an anonymous ID that you will enter into a textbox.

Risks and Discomforts:
We do not foresee any risks or discomfort from your participation in the research.

Benefits of the Research and Benefits to You:
The benefit of the research is that you will have the opportunity to access the findings by making a request to the researchers. The research findings have the potential to advance the body of knowledge in the area of interface design and interaction technique.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal:
Your participation in the study is completely voluntary and you may choose to stop participating at any time. Your decision not to volunteer, to stop participating, or to refuse to answer particular questions will not influence the nature of the ongoing relationship you may have with the researchers or study staff, or the nature of your relationship with York University either now, or in the future.

In the event you withdraw from the study, all associated data collected will be immediately destroyed wherever possible. Should you wish to withdraw after the study, you will have the option to also withdraw your data up until the analysis is complete.

Confidentiality:
No identifying information will be collected during the study. All information you supply during the research will be anonymous and held in confidence. While the researchers will maintain confidentiality, we cannot promise this on behalf of other participants in the focus group, although it will be requested. Your hard-copy data will be safely stored in a locked facility and electronic data will be securely stored in a passworded local computer and only the researchers will have access to this information. The data will be stored up till December 31, 2024 after which it will be deleted from the secured computer in which they are stored. Confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law.

The data collected in this research project may be used – in an anonymized form - by members of the

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research team in subsequent research investigations exploring similar lines of inquiry. Such projects will still undergo ethics review by the HPRC, our institutional REB. Any secondary use of anonymized data by the research team will be treated with the same degree of confidentiality and anonymity as in the original research project.

The researcher(s) acknowledge that the host of the online survey (e.g., Qualtrics, Survey Monkey etc.) may automatically collect participant data without their knowledge (i.e., IP addresses.) Although this information may be provided or made accessible to the researchers, it will not be used or saved without participant's consent on the researcher's system. Further, "Because this project employs e-based collection techniques, data may be subject to access by third parties as a result of various security legislation now in place in many countries and thus *the confidentiality and privacy of data cannot be guaranteed during web-based transmission.*

Questions About the Research? If you have questions about the research in general or about your role in the study, please feel free to contact the principal investigator (Kiemute Oyibo) at kiemute.oyibo@yorku.ca. You may also contact the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science and Engineering at eecs-ug@yorku.ca and/or 416-736-5053.

This research has received ethics review and approval by the Delegated Ethics Review Committee, which is delegated authority to review research ethics protocols by the Human Participants Review Sub-Committee, York University's Ethics Review Board, and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. If you have any questions about this process, or about your rights as a participant in the study, please contact the Sr. Manager & Policy Advisor for the Office of Research Ethics, 5th Floor, Kaneff Tower, York University (telephone 416-736-5914 or e-mail ore@yorku.ca).

*Nia Rajnish, Jay Sharma, Jordan Wong,
Priyanka Bhargav and Chin Yee Lai*

Signature
Principal Investigator

Date   11/23/2023

Legal Rights and Consent   *

By clicking the consent button below, I consent to participate in the study, "Is dark mode better than light mode?": Comparing Effects of Light and Dark Modes on Reading and Memory Recall conducted by Nia Rajnish, Jay Sharma, Jordan Wong, Priyanka Bhargav, Chin Yee Lai. I have understood the nature of this project and wish to participate. I am not waiving any of my legal rights by signing this form.

◉   I consent.