

# **Informed consent form for research participant's permission to take part in the study**

## **1. Project information**

1.1 Title of the research project: Secure communication system using audio steganography.

1.2 Researcher details:

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1.3 Research study description.

In order for secure communication, an alternative to encryption is provided, making use of audio steganography. Rather than encrypting data, the data is hidden within an audio signal in such a way that no difference between the original audio signal and the modified audio signal can be detected. The secret information may be text, audio or video.

One of the tests that are performed in order to verify that the embedding of the secret message within the audio was successful, is a subjective listening test, where humans are asked whether the difference can be detected between the original audio file and the audio file containing the secret information. This survey will be used for the subjective listening test. Participants will simply rate the quality by stating whether a difference can be detected between the original audio and the audio containing the secret message.

The participant will listen to the audio files via headphones. If this may cause any threat to the participant, the participant will inform the researcher and the questionnaire will not be undertaken by the participant. There are no other health concerns that the survey poses to the participants.

The data that will be collected during the survey, will be kept safe in a password protected file and will only be used in the publication of the final report to the examiners. No personal information of the participant will be disclosed or published in the report. The only information that will be used is the audio quality ratings provided by the participants in the survey.

## 2. Informed consent

2.1 I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby voluntarily grant my  
permission for participation in the project as explained to me by  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2.2 The nature, objective, possible safety and health implications have been  
explained to me and I understand them.

2.3 I understand my right to choose whether to participate in the project and  
that the information furnished will be handled confidentially. I am aware that  
the results of the investigation may be used for the purposes of publication.

2.4 Upon signature of this form, the participant will be provided with a copy.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_