Software Design Project for CS889
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University of Waterloo
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Participant Information Letter and Consent Form

Overview

You are being asked to volunteer in a study as part of a course project at the University of Waterloo. The intent of the course project is to give students experience in designing highly usable free/open source software. The course instructor is Professor Michael Terry.

Designing better technology is a process that involves interviews, observations, and the evaluation of new prototypes. In this project, we will first interview you to gain an understanding of your expertise with computers. We will also ask you about your experiences using the type of software being studied in the specific student project. The software under study in this class includes software that:

- enables users to provide feedback to software developers,
- manages software installation,
- enables image manipulation,
- **assists in configuring the Linux kernel,**
- assists in creating touch-enabled Wordpress documents,
- assists with software analytics, and
- supports prototyping user interfaces.

You will only be asked to consider one of the above categories of software, depending on the student project. The student investigator will tell you which of the above projects he is involved with.

After the interview, we will then ask you to:

- use an existing example of the software under study (for our specific project, we might ask you to use xconfig or gconfig),
- try out a prototype under development, and/or
- provide feedback on a design that has not yet been implemented.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to participate in follow-up sessions to gain additional feedback on new functional or non-functional designs.

Study Details
Participation in this study is completely voluntary and you may stop at any time. If you agree to participate, a typical session will last 30-60 minutes.

With your permission, we will use recording devices (for example, audio, video) to record the interviews, observations, and feedback sessions. These recordings will allow us to more easily recall facts when we later analyze our data.

You may decline to answer particular questions, if you wish, and may withdraw participation at any time by advising the student investigator.

Risks
There are no known or anticipated risks to you as a participant in this study other than those associated with the normal use of computers or mobile computing devices (e.g., BlackBerries, iPods, iPads, laptops, etc.) and risks associated with the normal tasks you perform with these devices.

Confidentiality and Data Retention
All data collected is considered confidential. Codes, rather than names or other identifying information, will be used in notes and/or recordings. Even though we may present our findings to the class or publish our results in papers, only the course instructor and our project group will have access to the data collected. Your name or any other personally identifying information will not appear in any publication resulting from this study. However, with your permission, anonymous quotations, pictures, and video clips may be used. Please note that while we will not reveal your name or personally identifying information, *these pictures or video clips may clearly reveal your identity*. Notes, images, and/or recordings collected during this study will be retained indefinitely in a secure location and/or a password-protected computer.

Remuneration
You will not be remunerated for participation in the study. However, the information you provide will help us understand how computers could be improved to better support tasks and activities in the real world.

Questions
If you have any questions about participation in this study, or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please contact Professor Michael Terry at (519) 888-4567 ext. 34528 or via email at mterry@cs.uwaterloo.ca.

I would like to assure you that this study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. However, the final decision about participation is yours. In the event you have any comments or concerns resulting from your participation in this study, please contact Dr. Susan Sykes at 519-888-4567, Ext. 36005 or via email at ssykes@uwaterloo.ca.

Consent Form

I agree to participate in a study being conducted by _____

_____

for the course CS889 (Topics in Human Computer Interaction: Open Source Usability) at the University of Waterloo. The course instructor is Professor Michael Terry. I have made this decision based on the information I have read in this Information-Consent Letter and the information provided on the research focus of this project. I have had the opportunity to receive any additional details I wanted about the study. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by telling the students or course instructor.

I am aware that I have the option of allowing my interview, observation, and feedback sessions to be recorded using audio and/or video recording devices to ensure an accurate recording of my responses.

I am aware that excerpts from the interview may be included in any publications to come from this study, with the understanding that the quotations will be anonymous.

I am aware that I have the option of allowing pictures to be taken to complement interviews and observations.

I am aware that I have the option to allow video and/or digital images in which I appear to be used in teaching, scientific presentations and/or publications with the understanding that I will not be identified by name. I am aware that I may withdraw this consent at any time without penalty.

I was informed that I may withdraw my consent at any time without penalty by advising the students or course instructor.

This project has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. I was informed that if I have any comments or concerns resulting from my participation in this study, I may contact the Director, Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo at (519) 888-4567 ext. 36005 or via email at ssykes@uwaterloo.ca.

With full knowledge of all foregoing, I agree, of my own free will, to participate in this study.

___ YES ___ NO

I agree to have the interview, observation, and feedback sessions recorded using an *audio* recording device.

___ YES ___ NO

I agree to have the interview, observation, and feedback sessions recorded using a *video* recording device.

___ YES ___ NO

I agree to let my conversation during the study be directly quoted, anonymously, in presentations of research results.

___ YES ___ NO

I agree to let video clips, audio clips, and/or digital images to be used for presentations of the research results.

___ YES ___ NO

_____ (Please print)
Name of participant

_____
Signature of participant

_____
Date

_____ (Please print)
Name of witness

_____
Signature of witness

_____
Date