

# USEC Coursework-Part B: Ethics Form

This form consists of two parts. The first part is the Project form, which is a list of questions specific to the USEC coursework. The second part is the official Ethical Reviews Procedure Level 1 used by the School of Informatics. Please fill on both sections and submit them on Learn.

## USEC - Project Form

**1 Name and UUN of Students involved:**

Name 1: Keanu Kerr

UUN 1: s1890615

**2 In 3-4 sentences, please briefly explain what your project is:**

I intend to test the EFF's Privacy Badger extension by having users unfamiliar with the extension try it out for themselves. The participants will be given 4 preselected websites to visit. Privacy Badger will automatically determine which trackers were common across all websites and automatically block them. I will then have the participant use the extension to tell me which trackers were blocked and why, along with some other post-experiment questions.

**3 Which methodology does your team intend to use?**

Think aloud.

**4 How many participants do you intend to have?**

3-5

**5 If any part of the research involving participants will be recorded using any electronic medium, what medium is to be used and how will the recordings be used?**

Audio only voice recording will be used from a personal phone. They will be used to review the participants thought processes during the think aloud.

**6 Who will have access to the raw data?**

Only me.

**7 If participants will be identified in your records, how will their consent to quotations/identifications be sought?**

They will not be identified in my records

**8 If they will not be identifiable, how will anonymity be preserved?**

Anonymity will be preserved by not sharing any parts of the recordings and the participants will only be referred to in broad demographic terms such as age or occupation.

**9 Will the datafiles/audio/video tapes, etc. be disposed of after the study?**

Yes.

**10 If not, how long they will be retained and how will they eventually be disposed of?**

They will not be retained.

## USEC – Level 1 Ethics Review.

The final section is a copy of Level 1 ethics review for the School of Informatics. Please fill this section in as well, and submit the full document on Learn.

## Ethical Review Procedures: Level 1

### Project Details & Self-assessment

This document is closely modelled on documents used in School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences provided by Ellen Bard and Cedric MacMartin.

This form is to be filled in and submitted at the same time as the project proposal or the funding application it applies to. The form should be submitted by the Principal Investigator, except in the following cases:

- Post-doctoral fellowships – the proposed postdoc mentor.
- UG, MSc, and PhD research projects – the supervisor.
- Visiting researcher – the staff hosting the visitor.

**This address, with appropriate RT number once issued, should be used for all correspondence (including forms and attached documents). This is essential to ensure proper record keeping.** No signature is required if the form is sent from a valid University email address.

### Project Details

**1 Type Of Project:**

**USEC course project (pre-filled in)**

**2 Is there a sponsor/ funding body?** NO

**3 Does the sponsor/funder require formal prior ethical review?** NO

**4 Is any other institution and/or ethics committee involved?** NO

**5 Title of Project: EFF Privacy Badger Usability**

**6 Researchers' names, affiliations, emails**

Student name: Keanu Kerr

Student email: [s1890615@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s1890615@ed.ac.uk)

Lecturer name: Kami Vaniea

Lecturer email: [Kami.Vaniea@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Kami.Vaniea@ed.ac.uk)

**7 State which professional organisation guidelines you are using:**

☒ School of Informatics research ethics code: <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/research/ethics/>

☐ Other ethics code as required by funding body or professional organization:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ URL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Self-assessment

Refer to Level 2 form for details on any of the following points.

### 1. Protection of research participants' confidentiality

Are there any issues of CONFIDENTIALITY which are NOT ADEQUATELY HANDLED by normal tenets of academic confidentiality? NO

These include well-established sets of procedures that may be agreed more or less explicitly with collaborating individuals/organisations, for example, regarding:

- (a) Non-attribution of individual responses;
- (b) Individuals and organisations anonymised in publications and presentation;
- (c) Specific agreement with respondents regarding feedback to collaborators and publication.

### 2. Data protection and consent

Are there any issues of DATA HANDLING AND CONSENT which are NOT ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH, and compliant with established procedures? NO

These include well-established sets of procedures, for example regarding:

- (a) Compliance with the University of Edinburgh's Data Protection procedures (see <http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk>);
- (b) Respondents giving consent regarding the collection of personal data (via consent form).

### 3. Significant potential for physical or psychological harm, discomfort or stress

Are there any risks of :

- (a) psychological harm or stress for the participants? NO
- (b) physical harm or discomfort for the participants? NO
- (c) any kind to the researcher? NO

### 4. Vulnerable participants

Are any of the participants in the research vulnerable, e.g., children, patients, disabled participants? NO

### 5. Moral issues and researcher/institutional conflicts of interest

Are there any SPECIAL MORAL ISSUES/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST? These include:

- (a) Conflict of interest: potential benefit to the researcher, friends or family of a particular research outcome which might compromise the researcher's objectivity or independence;
- (b) The need to keep the purposes of research concealed;
- (c) Use of participants who are unable to provide informed consent (e.g., children);
- (d) Situations where research findings would impinge negatively/differentially upon the interests of participants.

NO

### 6. Bringing the University into disrepute

Is there any aspect of the proposed research which might bring the University into disrepute? For example, could any aspect of the research be considered controversial or prejudiced?

NO

### 7. Use of animals

Does the research involve animals?

NO

### 8. Developing countries

Does the research involve developing countries?

NO

### 9. Dual use

Is the research classified or does it have specific adversarial military applications? NO

#### **10. Terrorist or extremist groups**

Does your research concern groups which may be construed as terrorist or extremist? NO

Can you stop now?

You may want to assure yourself that your 'NO' answers are correct by checking the detailed form in the next section.

If all the YES / NO answers are NO, the self assessment has been conducted and confirms the ABSENCE OF REASONABLY FORESEEABLE ETHICAL RISKS. This form should be signed by the researchers and submitted. The researchers may retain a copy for their own records.

If any answer is YES, please complete the relevant section in the Level 2 form below.