

Plain language statement



Project: Effects of Hedonic Information System Breaks on Problem Solving

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research. Please take the time to read this information carefully.

What is the research about?

The aim of the study is to investigate problem solving behavior for insight problems. We are interested in how cognition plays a role in problem solving. We are also interested in contextual factors that affect online problem solving, such as the effect of breaks.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to solve several puzzles of varying difficulty. Your behavior, including keystrokes and duration taken for each puzzle, will be recorded. Some demographic items and survey items will be recorded, such as your familiarity with technology and puzzle games. The entire study may take up to a maximum of 40 minutes, although on average it should take around 20 minutes to complete.

What are the possible risks?

It is unlikely that you will be exposed to any physical or psychological distress by participating in this project. You may experience moments of frustration or arousal while working on the problems. However, we emphasize that we are interested in problem solving behavior, not necessarily the completion of the problems. You will still earn the maximum participation fee regardless of how many problems you solve.

What are the possible benefits?

The research aims to increase understanding of factors that promote problem solving. This will have implications for how to improve human problem solving. We cannot guarantee any specific individual benefit from the project.

What if I want to withdraw from the research?

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to stop participation at any point. Your data will not be used if you withdraw early from the study.

Privacy, Confidentiality, and Disclosure of Information

Data collected as part of this project will not be associated with any identifying information. A randomly generated ID will automatically be assigned and used to group your data. We have no way of tracing the ID to your personal identity. In any publication, information will be provided in a way so that no participants can be identified. Only group data will be shown.

All information gathered from participants will be kept securely. Electronic data will be password protected and stored on a database server. Only the primary researcher will have access to this data. The data will not

include any personal identifying information. After completing the project, the data will be securely stored for five years at the University of Melbourne, after which the data will be destroyed.

Results of the Project

The results of the project will likely be presented as part of a PhD thesis. It is also possible that the finding will be disseminated in a peer-reviewed journal and/or conference presentations.

For further information

University of Melbourne, Department of Computing and Information Systems

Name of Investigator(s):

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Does the Plain Language Statement and Consent Form explain the following?

The information that is being collected

The purposes for which the information is being collected

The extent of future use of data

If permission is being sought to enter the information into a databank

The period for which the records relating to the participant will be kept

The form in which the data will be stored (i.e. whether identifiable or not)

The steps taken to ensure confidentiality and secure storage of data

The types of individuals or organisations to which your organisation usually discloses information of this kind

How privacy and confidentiality will be protected in any publication of the information

The fact that the individual may access that information

Any law that requires the particular information to be collected

The consequences (if any) for the individual if all or part of the information is not provided

The identity of the organisation collecting the information and how to contact it