



University  
of Victoria

## *Letter of Information for Implied Consent*

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### **Regulation in Software Engineering**

We are a team of independent researchers from the department of Computer Science at the University of Victoria, Canada. We would like to request your assistance by participating in a short interview (not more than 1 hour) conducted over Skype. We are looking for adults (19 years or older) who are: software developers (have been developing code) or are currently part of an open source community.

The interview will be conducted over Skype. It will be (audio) recorded but all confidential information will be stripped during the data analysis phase.

This is a purely academic research project with no commercial interests. We will openly publish the results so everyone can benefit from them, but will anonymize everything before doing; your responses will be handled confidentially. Please note that you are not obligated to participate in the interview. If at some point during the interview you want to stop, you're free to do so without any negative consequences and any data collected up to that point will be discarded.

Thanks for participating!

### **Participants Selection**

You are being asked to participate in this study because you have been identified as part of an open source community and have indicated that you are willing to assist with our study through a short (up to 1-hour) interview.

### **Risks**

There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research. The interview will be done at your convenience through Skype.

### **Benefits**

The potential benefits of your participation in this research include benefits to the state of knowledge, in particular in software engineering.

### **Voluntary Participation**

Your participation in this research must be completely voluntary. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time without any consequences or any explanation. If you do withdraw from the study your interview responses will be deleted, and will not be used in any form in our current (and future) study.

### **Anonymity**

In terms of protecting your anonymity the interview will not ask for any identifying information. Any private information given to us by you (email, GitHub username, Skype or Google Hangouts username) will be removed in the final analysis, stripped and replaced with anonymous identifiers.

**Confidentiality**

Your confidentiality and the confidentiality of the data will be protected by access restricted and password protected computers located in a research lab at the University of Victoria. Only the research investigators will be able to access the data. After conducting the interviews, the data will be stripped of any confidential information.

Please be advised that this research study includes data storage in the U.S. As such, there is a possibility that information about you that is gathered for this research study may be accessed without your knowledge or consent by the U.S. government in compliance with the U.S. Patriot Act.

**Dissemination of Results**

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be shared with others in the following ways: Thesis, Dissertation, Published articles or books, Presentations at scholarly meetings, Internet, and Directly to participants involved (if requested to be notified of results).

**Disposal of Data**

Data collected in the study will be disposed of 5 years after the beginning of the study. All data collected in the interviews, and backups will be electronically deleted.

**Contacts**

Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include: Maryi Arciniegas-Mendez ([maryia@uvic.ca](mailto:maryia@uvic.ca)) and Dr. Margaret-Anne Storey ([mstorey@uvic.ca](mailto:mstorey@uvic.ca)).

In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or [ethics@uvic.ca](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca)).

At the time of the interview you will be given the opportunity to provide **VERBAL CONSENT** and indicate that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.

*Please retain a copy of this letter for your reference.*