The Skyentists: Testing Script

Hello and welcome! We are The Skyentists (Jake, Lucas, Max, and myself – Mark), a software development team that created the calibration software which is a process for an earth systems model used by NTSG on campus. This software is essentially an updated and better-documented code than what is currently used there. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for volunteering your time to help us test this new and exciting adventure into the world of plant carbon response. I will be reading from this script to ensure consistency between all of our participants.

Now a little about the calibration process. This software allows the user to filter carbon flux tower data from around the globe and optimize the parameters for a terrestrial carbon balance model that focuses on different plant types. Please note that our software is still in its development stage and that it may break down under certain circumstances. If that does happen, we will restart the program.

Understand that this exercise is to test the product and its usability and in no way implies your abilities. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, please inform us and we will terminate the exercise immediately. (We will be recording this exercise with a screen recorder on the computer so that we can gather as much information as possible from this session.)

Your opinion and ideas are important to us. Whenever possible, please speak your thoughts freely. Do not be concerned about offending us. If you forget to think aloud, I’ll remind you to keep talking.

As you’re working through this software, I won’t be able to provide help or answer questions on the usability of the program. We will provide some background information on things such as the plant types if necessary. This is because we want to create the most realistic situation possible. Even though we won’t be able to answer your usability questions during the exercise, please ask them. We’ll note your questions and answer them at the end of the exercise.

Do you have any questions currently?