

## **CONSENT LETTER FOR ENROLLING ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN A RESEARCH STUDY**

School of Interactive Computing  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, GA

September 29, 2014

Dear Subject,

You are being asked to participate in a research study. The study is for a project titled “Study on perception of errors in interactive fiction using data acquired from the crowd”. The principle investigator on the project is Dr. Mark Riedl. This work is sponsored in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This project seeks to evaluate the performance of a technique for automatically collecting and combining parts of stories. Computer storytelling systems often require explicit knowledge about how the world works and how stories unfold. We have created a technique for automatically getting and using this knowledge to tell new stories, and wish to evaluate it.

In this study, you will be playing two interactive narratives, followed by a brief evaluation section after each.

Our goal is to develop computer systems that are capable of autonomously creating novel stories for entertainment, education, and training. We need your assistance in this study to gather information about how well our techniques are working.

### **Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:**

You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this study.

U.S. Military personnel are not allowed to participate while on duty due to the Dual Compensation Act and 24 U.S.C. 30.

**Procedures:**

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to play 2 interactive narratives. Each interactive narrative was either authored by an anonymous human, automatically made by our technique, or generated randomly. You will be asked to take a brief survey afterward about the story and your subjective opinion.

The task should take less than 30 minutes.

**Risks or Discomforts:**

The risks involved are no greater than those involved in reading short fictional stories or playing text-based adventure games.

**Benefits:**

You are not likely to benefit in any way from joining this study, except for the compensation below:

**Compensation to You:**

Payment will be as indicated in the HIT that brought you to this letter. It is likely between \$0.15 and \$0.50.

**Confidentiality:**

Your privacy will be protected to the extent allowed by law. To protect your privacy, your records will be kept under a “participant number.” We generate this number and assign it to you, rather than using your name or unique Amazon Mechanical Turk (AMT) worker identification number (“mturk id”). Furthermore, the mapping between your participant number and mturk id will be kept separate from the responses you provide. Your mturk id will be removed from your response and replaced with your participant number. Your records will be kept in locked files. Only study staff will be allowed to look at them.

Your name, mturk id, and any other fact that might point to you will not appear when results of this study are presented. We are only interested in group information. The reporting of the results will only contain group mean results. It will not contain your personal information.

You may choose to email us. Only the experimenters listed at the bottom of this letter may read and reply to your email. Because emails may contain your name we will delete the emails once the study is

complete. No link will be maintained that could connect your identity with your study responses.

To make sure that this research is being done properly, the Georgia Institute of Technology Internal Review Board (IRB) may review study records. The Office of Human Research Protections (US Department of Health and Human Services) may also look over study records.

### **Costs to You:**

There are no costs to you, other than your time.

### **In Case of Injury/Harm:**

If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact the Principal Investigator, Mark Riedl, Ph.D. Neither the Principal Investigator nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

### **Participant Rights:**

- Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about being in this study will be given to you.
- Please save a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights by volunteering for this study

### **Questions about the Study:**

If you have any questions regarding the conduct or research goals of this study please contact one of the investigators listed on the bottom of this letter.

### **Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:**

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact:

Ms. Melanie Clark, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 894-6942.

Ms. Kelly Winn, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 385- 2175.

If you complete the AMT task that brought you to this letter, it means that you have read (or have had read to you) the information contained in this letter, and would like to be a volunteer in this research study.

Thank you!

Dr. Mark Riedl ([riedl@cc.gatech.edu](mailto:riedl@cc.gatech.edu))

Boyang “Albert” Li ([boyangli@gatech.edu](mailto:boyangli@gatech.edu))

Matthew Guzdial ([mguzdial3@gatech.edu](mailto:mguzdial3@gatech.edu))