

WEBSLICER USABILITY TESTING

INFORMED CONSENT

INTRODUCTION

You are invited to join a research study under the direction of Fred Martin and conducted by Michael Meding, "Webslicer Usability Testing." This study will involve the process of bringing a 3D model from digital design to physical world using our new slicing software. Please take whatever time you need to discuss the study with your family and friends, or anyone else you wish to. The decision to join, or not to join, is up to you.

In testing WebSlicer, we will be evaluating a web 3D print slicer. A print slicer is a piece of software which takes 3D models and divides them into virtual layers in preparation for being 3D printed. As a participant your role will be to choose a small model or figure from a set of pre-selected models. From there the participant will take this model through all of the steps necessary to prep it for being printed on a supplied 3D printer.

From this focused study I hope to gain insight into some of the strengths and weaknesses of my software design so that I may improve its final design.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE STUDY?

If you decide to participate you will be asked to sit at a computer in one of our labs and answer questions from a pre-study survey. The questions will be about your general knowledge of 3D printing and should take no more than 5 minutes.

Participants will then be asked to perform a set of tasks to the best of their ability using our software. The tasks are short and simple, such as inputting given information into text fields or uploading a file.

Finally, participants will be asked to take a short post-study survey which asks them to rank the difficulty of given tasks from the prior exercise. Participants will also be able to add their own notes about their experience using our new software.

This research will take you about 30 min from start to finish.

You can stop participating at any time.

RISKS

There are no anticipated risks to participating in this study. However, if you experience any discomfort with using a computer then it is not recommended that you participate in this study.

BENEFITS TO TAKING PART IN THE STUDY?

There are no direct benefits to you however, participating in this research you may develop a better understanding of 3D printing and its surrounding technologies.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will not be collecting any personally identifiable data during this study.

The results from this study will be published as a part of the student researcher's master's thesis and will only be shown in the form of what has been gained by the insight that you as a participant tell me is wrong with my software.

INCENTIVES

The only incentive in this study is the ability to take home a 3D printed model of your choice at the end of the study.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right not to participate at all or to leave the study at any time. Deciding not to participate or choosing to leave the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled, and it will not harm your relationship with WebSlicer and any University of Massachusetts Lowell staff.

CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

Call Fred Martin at 978-934-1964 or email at fredm@cs.uml.edu if you have questions about the study, any problems, unexpected physical or psychological discomforts, any injuries, or think that something unusual or unexpected is happening.