



University  
of Victoria

# Participant Consent Form

## Artifact Re-Use in Software Engineering Research Papers

We are Neil Ernst from the department of Computer Science at the University of Victoria, Canada and Tim Menzies from NC State University.

You are being invited to participate in the study entitled "Artifact Re-Use in Software Engineering Research Papers". We would appreciate the opportunity to check your perceptions of the use of artifacts in your research paper. We would be delighted if you would be willing to participate in the following short (5 minute) survey.

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 study. If at some point during the survey you want to stop, you are free to do so without any negative consequences..

Thank you for participating!

### Participants Selection

You are being asked to participate in this study because you have been identified as an author of a paper that potentially re-used an existing software artifact.

### What is involved

If you consent to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include:

- you will be shown potential re-use in your papers and asked to confirm we have correctly identified it.

### Risks

There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research. Please be advised that this research study includes data storage in U.S.A. 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. Freedom Act.

### Benefits

The potential benefits of your participation in this research include benefits to the state of knowledge, such as the development of better artifact sharing and acknowledgement of important artifacts.

## **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. It is logistically impossible to remove individual participant data if you withdraw part way or after the data has been collected.

## **Anonymity**

In terms of protecting your anonymity the interview will not ask for any identifying information. Any private information given to us 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 and stored in a Github Repository or permanent archival record.

## **Dissemination of Results**

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be shared with others in the following ways: thesis, dissertation, class presentations, published articles, chapters or books, presentations at scholarly meetings, internet, and directly to participants involved (if requested to be notified of results).

## **Disposal of Data**

Data will be archived after being anonymized. Anonymized data may be used, by us or others, for purposes other than those described here as part of our commitment to open science.

## **Contacts**

Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include:

- Dr. Neil Ernst (nernst@uvic.ca)
- Dr. Tim Menzies ([timm@ieee.org](mailto:timm@ieee.org))

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)).

Continuing with the survey indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study, that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers, and that you consent to participate in this research project.