

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
PRELIMINARY ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM

This Preliminary Ethics Self -Assessment Form is to be conducted by the researcher, and completed in conjunction with the Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice. All students of the School of Computer Science must complete it prior to commencing research.

This Form will act as a formal record of your preliminary ethics considerations.

PROJECT TYPE (please ✓)

☒ Undergraduate ☐ Postgraduate MSc ☐ Module coursework (for staff only)

PROJECT TITLE and SHORT DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Opportunistic Microblogging Platform

Platform for sending messages through an opportunistic network of smartphones.

Name of researcher(s)	Neil Wells
Name of supervisor (for student research)	Tristan Henderson

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (to be signed after questions, overleaf, have been completed)

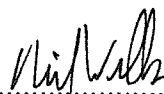
Self-audit has been conducted (Please ✓)


☒ YES ☐ NO

Ethical Issues (Please ✓)

☒ There are **NO** ethical issues raised by this project (I will submit this form on MMS).

☐ There are ethical issues raised by this project (I will submit a full ethics form).

Signed  Print Name Neil Wells Date 18/9/14
(Student Researcher(s), if applicable)

Signed  Print Name TRISTAN HENDERSON Date 22/9/14
(Lead Researcher or Supervisor)

This form must be date stamped and held in the files of the School Ethics Committee. The School Ethics Committee will be responsible for monitoring assessments.

Computer Science Preliminary Ethics Self-Assessment Form

Research with human subjects

1. Does your research involve human subjects or have potential adverse consequences for human welfare and wellbeing? **YES NO**

For example:

Will you be surveying, observing or interviewing human subjects?

Will you be testing any systems or programs on human subjects?

Will you be collecting data from computers or networks used by human subjects?

If YES, full ethics review may be required

If NO, go to question 16, then sign this form and return to the School Ethics Committee Secretary.

Potential physical or psychological harm, discomfort or stress

2. Will your participants be exposed to any risks greater than those encountered in their normal working life? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

Investigators have a responsibility to protect participants from physical and mental harm during the investigation. The risk of harm must be no greater than in ordinary life. Areas of potential risk that require ethical approval include, but are not limited to, investigations that occur outside usual laboratory areas, or that require participant mobility (e.g., walking, running, use of public transport), unusual or repetitive activity or movement, that use sensory deprivation (e.g., ear plugs or blindfolds), bright or flashing lights, loud or disorienting noises, smell, taste, vibration, or force feedback.

3. Do your experimental materials comprise software running on non-standard hardware? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

Participants should not be exposed to any risks associated with the use of non-standard equipment: anything other than pen-and-paper, standard PCs, mobile phones, and PDAs is considered non-standard.

4. Will you offer incentives to your participants? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

The payment of participants must not be used to induce them to risk harm beyond that which they risk without payment in their normal lifestyle.

Data Protection

5. Will any data collected from the participants not be stored in a secure and anonymous form? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

All participant data (hard-copy and soft-copy) should be stored securely, and in anonymous form.

6. Will you collect more data than are required for your immediate experimental hypotheses? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

Any collection of personal data should be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for the collection.

Informed consent

7. Will participants participate without their explicit agreement to participate, or their explicit agreement that their data can be used in your project? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

If the results of the experiments are likely to be used beyond the term of the project (for example, the software is to be deployed, or the data is to be published), then signed consent is necessary. A separate consent form should be signed by each participant. Otherwise, verbal consent is sufficient, and should be explicitly requested in the introductory script.

8. Will you withhold any information about your experiment or materials from your participants? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

Withholding information or misleading participants is unacceptable if participants are likely to object or show unease when debriefed.

9. Are any of your participants under the age of 18? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

Working with human subjects under the age of 18 requires you to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure from Disclosure Scotland.

10. Do any of your participants have an impairment that may limit their understanding or communication? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

Additional consent is required for participants with impairments.

11. Are you or your supervisor in a position of authority or influence over any of the participants? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

A position of authority or influence over any participant must not be allowed to pressurise participants to take part in, or remain in, any experiment.

12. Will participants participate without being informed that they can withdraw at any time? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

All participants have the right to withdraw at any time during the investigation. They should be told this in the introductory script.

13. Will participants participate without being informed of your contact details and those of your supervisor? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

All participants must be able to contact the investigator after the investigation. They should be given the details of both student and module co-ordinator or supervisor as part of the debriefing.

14. Will any participants not have the opportunity to discuss the experiment and answer questions at the end of your experimental session? **YES NO**

If YES, full ethics review required

You must provide the participants with sufficient information in the debriefing to enable them to understand the nature of the investigation.

Conflicts of interest

15. Do any conflicts of interest arise?

YES NO

If YES, full ethics review required

For example:

Might research objectivity be compromised by sponsorship?

Might any issues of intellectual property or roles in research be raised?

Funding

16. Is your research funded externally?

YES NO

If YES, is the funder missing from the 'currently automatically approved' list on the UTREC website?

YES NO

If YES, you will need to submit a Funding Approval Application as per instructions on the UTREC website.

If there are no ethical issues raised by your project, you should tick the correct box on the front of the form. You (and your supervisor) should now sign this form and return it to the School Ethics Committee Secretary via MMS submission in the appropriate column.

If you are required to submit a full Ethics Application Form, then you should submit that instead. There is no need to submit this form via MMS if you submit a full Ethics Application Form.

Check whether you need to submit a full Ethics Application Form. If you have a supervisor, also check with them. If still in doubt, please contact the School Ethics Committee for advice.

Where appropriate, your experiments must use information sheets based on the examples provided on the Ethics website (<http://www.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/ethics>), and these should be submitted with your final report.