



## Informed Consent to Participate in Research Involving Minimal Risk

**Pro #00031474**

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You are being asked to take part in a research study. Research studies include only people who choose to take part. This document is called an informed consent form. Please read this information carefully and take your time making your decision. Ask the researcher or study staff to discuss this consent form with you, please ask him/her to explain any words or information you do not clearly understand. We encourage you to talk with your family and friends before you decide to take part in this research study. The nature of the study, risks, inconveniences, discomforts, and other important information about the study are listed below.

We are asking you to take part in a research study called:

**SaTC: CORE: Small: A Privacy-Preserving Metadata Analysis Framework for Cyber Abuse Research – Foundations, Tools and Algorithms #1718071**

The person who is in charge of this research study is Nathan Fisk. This person is called the Principal Investigator. However, other research staff may be involved and can act on behalf of the person in charge.

The research will be conducted at the University of South Florida, Tampa, and online using an application which will be installed on your mobile phone.

This research is being sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

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### Purpose of the study

This project seeks to develop new models and automated tools for monitoring youth throughout their everyday online lives, focusing on youth agency and privacy as a central value. As such, the project seeks to:

1. Better understand acceptable forms of electronic supervision and early warning detection from a youth perspective.
2. Develop tools and models for electronic supervision and guidance of youth which do not rely upon intrusive and expensive monitoring of communication.

In short, we think that kids who are victims have different patterns of communications that are easily detectable, allowing us to create tools to predict and intervene early on in victimization cases. Even beyond kids, we believe that we can study patterns of communication to help predict when people are experiencing various problems, and we want to develop tools to study and intervene in those problems.

## Why are you being asked to take part?

We are asking you to take part in this research study because we are looking to test the application with a small group of adult college students prior to increasing the scope of the project to a younger, more vulnerable audience.

## Study Procedures:

If you choose to participate in this study, we will ask you to:

1. Install an application on your smartphone. This app will let us ask you questions during the project, but most importantly, it will let us collect data about when you send and receive messages, communications and notifications on your phone, and what type of communication is taking place. This data will never be connected to you as an individual, and it will never include any of the actual messages you send or receive. It will also let you quit the project and take back any or all your data at any time.
2. Complete a short initial survey. The survey will be administered via the app, and will be fully confidential and anonymous.
3. Keep the application installed on the smartphone for three weeks, so we can keep collecting information on when you send and receive messages.
4. Complete more survey questions using the app, mostly about what kinds of things have been happening in your life while we have been monitoring your phone.
5. Allow the application to be automatically deleted from your smartphone, along with all data placed on the phone by the application.
6. Participate in a closing conversation, to see how things went. This will be a open discussion for you to talk about your experiences with the app, and tell us what could be better.

No identifying information involving you or anyone you know will be collected, and we will not be able to read your texts/messages/notifications. The app will even delete any names you put in your answers to the survey, just to be sure. Remember: we might ask for telephone numbers or things that look like they might let us identify you or other people, but the application will hide all that before sending it to us – you can even check to see what we'll get from the app before it sends it over.

The closing conversation will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. This conversation will be in person with other participants, and as such others will know that you participated, and may share your conversation with people outside of the study. We do ask that participants do not discuss the study with others, but we obviously cannot control what participants say outside of the study. You may choose not to participate in the closing conversation. Regardless, no sensitive questions will be asked during this conversation, and we will focus mostly on your experiences with the app. Again, the focus of this study is to make sure the application works, and would work well for middle- and high-school students.

Overall, the project as a whole should take about a month – but you will only be actively participating for about 2-3 hours, depending on what questions you choose to answer.

## Total Number of Participants

You do not have to participate in this research study.

You should only take part in this study if you want to volunteer. You should not feel that there is any

pressure to take part in the study. You are free to participate in this research or withdraw at any time. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits you are entitled to receive if you stop taking part in this study. Your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your job status, employment record, employee evaluations, or advancement opportunities, nor will it affect your student status, course grade, recommendations, or access to future courses or training opportunities

## **Alternatives / Voluntary Participation / Withdrawal**

You do not have to participate in this research study.

You should only take part in this study if you want to volunteer. You should not feel that there is any pressure to take part in the study. You are free to participate in this research or withdraw at any time. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits you are entitled to receive if you stop taking part in this study. Your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your job status, employment record, employee evaluations, or advancement opportunities, nor will it affect your student status, course grade, recommendations, or access to future courses or training opportunities

## **Benefits**

You will receive no benefit(s) by participating in this research study, outside of the possibility of pizza consumption during the final meeting/conversation.

## **Risks or Discomfort**

This research is considered to be minimal risk. That means that the risks associated with this study are the same as what you face every day. There are no known additional risks to those who take part in this study.

You may be asked to look at, or remember how you felt during, particular periods of your communication history. If remembering your experiences with past messages might be troubling or significantly uncomfortable to you, please remember, you are under no obligation to participate.

It is possible that unauthorized individuals could gain access to your responses. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. No guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet. However, your participation in this online survey involves risks similar to a person's everyday use of the Internet.

## **Compensation**

You will receive no payment or other compensation for taking part in this study.

## **Costs**

It will not cost you anything to take part in the study. However, given that this study relies on a mobile application, it will use cellular data plans to communicate with our servers if you allow it to. The amount of data provided to researchers should be relatively small, no more than streaming a song or YouTube video, and the application will do its best to transmit using wi-fi networks, when it can.

If you have concerns about data transmission costs, again, you are under no obligation to participate.

## Privacy and Confidentiality

We will keep your study records private and confidential. Certain people may need to see your study records. Anyone who looks at your records must keep them confidential. These individuals include:

- The research team, including the Principal Investigator and all other research staff.
- Certain government and university people who need to know more about the study, and individuals who provide oversight to ensure that we are doing the study in the right way.
- Any agency of the federal, state, or local government that regulates this research.
- The USF Institutional Review Board (IRB) and related staff who have oversight responsibilities for this study, including staff in USF Research Integrity and Compliance.
- The sponsors of this study and contract research organization

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not include your name. We will not publish anything that would let people know who you are.

A federal law called Title IX protects your right to be free from sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. USF's Title IX policy requires certain USF employees to report sexual harassment or sexual violence against any USF employee, student or group, but does not require researchers to report sexual harassment or sexual violence when they learn about it as part of conducting an IRB-approved study. If, as part of this study, you tell us about any sexual harassment or sexual violence that has happened to you, including rape or sexual assault, we are not required to report it to the University. If you have questions about Title IX or USF's Title IX policy, please call USF's Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity at (813) 974-4373.

## You can get the answers to your questions, concerns, or complaints

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this study, or experience an unanticipated problem, call Nathan Fisk, Principal Investigator at (813) 666-4984, or use the application to send anonymous messages to the researchers.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, or have complaints, concerns or issues you want to discuss with someone outside the research, call the USF IRB at (813) 974-5638 or contact by email at [RSCH-IRB@usf.edu](mailto:RSCH-IRB@usf.edu).

### **Consent to Take Part in this Research Study**

I freely give my consent to take part in this study . I understand that by signing this form I am agreeing to take part in research. I have received a copy of this form to take with me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Taking Part in Study

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Person Taking Part in Study

### **Statement of Person Obtaining Informed Consent**

I have carefully explained to the person taking part in the study what he or she can expect from their participation. I confirm that this research subject speaks the language that was used to explain this research and is receiving an informed consent form in their primary language. This research subject has provided legally effective informed consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person obtaining Informed Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Person Obtaining Informed Consent