

## **Consent/Disclosure Form:**

**Title:** Website Quality and Legitimacy Assessment Study Consent/Disclosure Form

### **Introduction:**

Thank you for participating in our study on quality and legitimacy assessments of websites visited on various platforms, particularly mobile phones vs. desktop platforms. Before you proceed, please read the following information carefully.

### **Purpose of the Study:**

The purpose of this study is to assess the quality and legitimacy of websites visited on mobile devices compared to desktops. Your participation will help us design higher-quality and more secure websites.

### **About high quality and legitimate websites:**

These websites tend to have a clear purpose or mission, which is evident in their content and messaging. They prioritize transparency and authenticity, ensuring that their intentions and practices are easily understood by their users. Additionally, these websites often have a robust security infrastructure in place, including measures to protect against malware, phishing attacks, and other online threats. Overall, high-quality websites prioritize user trust and strive to maintain a positive reputation in the online space.

### **About illegitimate websites:**

In addition to their poor design and deceptive tactics, illegitimate websites often pose serious security risks to users. Illegitimate websites are usually fake websites that attempt to deceive users into fraud or malicious attacks or to spread misinformation. Examples of such attacks are Denial of Service, Phishing, SQL injection, Ransomware, Trojan horse attacks etc. Phishing attacks are a form of social engineering in which attackers deceive users into revealing sensitive information. These attacks can be done through emails, text messages, or websites that look legitimate but are actually designed to steal your information.

### **Procedure:**

You will be asked to participate in a survey hosted on Question Pro in your own environment. You will be requested to answer a few demographic questions along with general questions on about your knowledge and experience with high-quality, low-quality and illegitimate websites. Then, you will see multiple websites on the survey and will be asked to interact with the provided link. You need to assess each given website to see if it is of high quality or not. Some websites provided might not be high quality or malicious. **Please note that this is a simulation, and no real harm can come from clicking on the link.** Your actions and responses will be observed in the form of your answers for research purposes only. The observation and analysis of your responses are performed manually by the researchers actively after the experiment, and no third-party or software is being used to observe, record, store and share said data. **This data is not being shared with any third parties. NO actual user credentials are being used or collected.** You are then requested to answer a few post-experiment questions to discuss your experiment run.

### **Data Collection:**

You will be assigned a participant number to anonymize any data we collect. During the study, we will collect information about your age, gender, occupation, education level, and other relevant demographics. We will also collect data on your responses to the websites. **Please be assured that your personal information will not be collected or shared with anyone.** All data will be anonymized and used only for research purposes.

**How is this data used:**

Demographic data like age, gender, occupation, education level, etc., will be used to generalize and group participants to observe similarities between them. The responses to the websites are used to perform quantitative and qualitative analyses and understand similar behavior patterns.

**Confidentiality and Participant Rights:**

Participant confidentiality is of utmost importance in this study. Your responses will be kept confidential, and your identity will not be linked to your data in any way. Your responses will be anonymized and aggregated for analysis, and no individual participant will be identified in any reports or publications resulting from this study. Only the research team will access to the data, and all data will be stored securely.

Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time without penalty. Your decision to participate or not will not affect your relationship with the researchers or the University in any way. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, you can contact the researchers at any time for clarification.

**Participant Consent:**

By continuing with this study, you indicate that you have (1) read and understood the information provided about cyberattacks, (2) read and understood the information provided about the experiment procedure, (3) gave permission to the researchers to collect both demographic data and experiment data in an anonymized manner and, (4) understood that no personal user data is being collected or shared, and (5) non-disclosure of any collected data mentioned by the researchers and (6) voluntarily agree to participate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the researcher listed below.

**Researcher Contact Information:**

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**Participant Signature:**

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(Signature)

Date:

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Thank you for your participation. Your contribution is valuable to our research.