

Informed Consent to Participate in Research

Information to Consider Before Taking Part in this Research Study

Title: Cyberattacks and Recovery in Biometric Systems (CARBS)

Study #STUDY009515

Overview: You are being asked to take part in a research study. The information in this document should help you to decide if you would like to participate. The sections in this Overview provide the basic information about the study. More detailed information is provided in the remainder of the document.

Study Staff: This study is being led by Dr. Tempestt Neal, who is an Associate Professor in the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing at the University of South Florida (USF). Dr. Neal is the Principal Investigator for this project. Other trained research staff may help with portions of the study.

Study Details: This study is being conducted online by the Cyber Identity and Behavior Research Lab at the University of South Florida. The goal of the study is to understand how different types of cyberattacks affect people's trust in biometric authentication systems and their willingness to keep using these systems after a security incident.

A *biometric authentication system* is a security tool that uses physical or behavioral traits—such as your fingerprint, face, voice, or how you type—to confirm your identity. A *cyberattack* is when someone tries to break into a computer system or trick it in order to access information they should not have.

If you choose to participate, you will complete an online survey that takes about 35 minutes. The survey includes questions about your technology use, your trust in security systems, and your experiences with biometrics like fingerprint or face recognition.

As part of the study, you will be shown one simulated security-incident notification describing a cyberattack involving a biometric system. The type of attack you see will be randomly selected for you. After reading the notification, you will answer questions about how you would understand and respond to that incident.

You will not be exposed to any real security breach. All scenarios in the study are fictional and created solely for research purposes.

Participants: You are being asked to participate because you are 18 years or older. We are asking people from the general population to share their opinions about data-breach notifications so we can better understand how the public interprets this kind of information.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to participate and may stop your participation at any time. There will be no penalties or loss of benefits or opportunities if you do not participate or decide to stop once you start.

Benefits, Compensation, and Risk: We do not know if you will receive any benefit from your participation.

There is no cost to participate.

You will be compensated \$8.50 for your participation.

This research is considered minimal risk. Minimal risk means that study risks are the same as the risks you face in daily life.

Confidentiality: Even if we publish the findings from this study, we will keep your study information private and confidential. Anyone with the authority to look at your records must keep them confidential.

Privacy and Confidentiality

It is possible, although unlikely, that unauthorized individuals could gain access to your responses because you are responding online. 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. If you complete and submit an anonymous survey and later request your data be withdrawn, this may or may not be possible as the researcher may be unable to extract anonymous data from the database.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this study, call Dr. Tempestt Neal at (813) 396-9353 or send a direct message to the study staff through the Prolific platform. If you have questions about your rights, complaints, or issues as a person taking part in this study, call the USF IRB at (813) 974-5638 or contact the IRB by email at RSCH-IRB@usf.edu.

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not let anyone know your name. We will not publish anything else that would let people know who you are. You can print a copy of this consent form for your records.

I freely give my consent to take part in this study. I understand that by proceeding with this survey, I am agreeing to take part in research and I am 18 years of age or older.