INFORMATION LETTER for Survey

Study Title: Task-based Code Recommender Systems

Research Investigators:
Removed for double blind

Background
- You are invited to participate in this research project regarding collecting useful information to later build better documentation strategies and recommender systems.
- The results of this survey may later be used to develop tools or methodologies to help developers write better code.

Purpose
- Software developers often refer to community-driven resources to look for solutions to everyday software engineering tasks. Furthermore, developers use the Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) of existing libraries to help them accomplish such tasks. In this project, we intend to extract useful information from various sources of information, including Stack overflow, an immensely popular programming Q & A website. You are asked to help us evaluate the quality of this extracted information. Our goal is to later incorporate that information in various types of recommender systems that help developers use software libraries and accomplish their programming tasks.

Study Procedures
- If you agree to participate in the study, please visit our website and follow the instructions there. You will presented with a survey that asks you to evaluate various information.
- At the end of the survey period, we will analyze all the provided data in order to come up with improvements to our extraction mechanisms.

Risks, Benefits, and Cost
- Benefits: you will be reimbursed USD $3 from mechanical turk after completeing this survey.
- This study can benefit software developers in general, as the results may lead to ways of automating the recommendation of software libraries for developers in their daily tasks.
- The risks to you in this study are minimal. While we will ask you to fill in some details about yourself along with your responses, we do not collect your name or any other identifying information. More information about confidentiality is mentioned below.
- It is not possible to know all of the risks that may happen in a study, but we have taken all reasonable safeguards to minimize any known risks to a study participant.
- There may be risks to being in this study that are not known. If we learn anything during the research that may affect your willingness to continue being in the study, we will tell you right away.
- Beyond your time, there is no cost to you, or compensation.

Voluntary Participation
- You are under no obligation to participate in this study. Participation is completely voluntary.

Confidentiality & Anonymity
- The research results will be synthesized for academic theses and publications in software engineering conferences and journals.
- We will manually redact identifiable information from the responses.
- Data will be kept confidential and anonymous. The project team will retain access to the data.
- Data is kept securely on encrypted file systems or password protected email accounts for a minimum of 5 years following completion of research project.
- Completely anonymized and non-linkable data may be publicly posted to backup the results of our published survey.
- We do not plan to share confidential data with other researchers.
- We may use the data we get from this study in future research, but if we do this it will have to be approved by a Research Ethics Board.

Further Information
- If you have any further questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact <removed for double blind)
- The plan for this study has been reviewed for its adherence to ethical guidelines by a Research Ethics Board at the <Univ name removed for double blind> (Ref: <removed for double blind>). For questions regarding participant rights and ethical conduct of research, contact the Research Ethics Office at <removed for double blind>

By completing and clicking the "Submit" button on the survey found in the website, YOUR FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT IS IMPLIED and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.