Informed Consent Form

(To be completed before working with each user. One copy to be given to the user and one copy submitted with the final report) University of Ottawa student(s) performing the research:

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Whenever a research project involves humans, the written consent of the research subjects must be obtained. This does not imply that the project necessarily involves a risk. In view of the respect owed to the research subjects, the University of Ottawa has made this type of agreement mandatory.

I, (name of research subject) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, am interested in collaborating in the research conducted as part of a software usability course; the student(s) performing the research will receive a grade based on how well they perform this research. The purpose of the research is to evaluate the usability of, and identify problems in, a software system entitled:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My participation will consist essentially of the following: I will be asked to use a software system for about \_\_\_\_\_\_ minutes, performing specific tasks with the software, as requested by the student(s). During this time, I will be asked to talk out loud to the best of my ability, describing what I am thinking and doing. At the end of the session I will be asked some questions about by experiences.

The session will normally be videotaped so the student(s) can study what happened in detail. The student(s) listed above (and possibly the TA) will only view the videotape. Before the end of the course, the student(s) will submit the tape To the TA who will erase it.

I understand that this activity may cause me frustration and stress if the software proves difficult to use or does not perform as expected. I have been assured by the researchers that every effort will be made to minimize these occurrences by stopping a task if it becomes too difficult. I understand that it is the software and not me that is being evaluated, and that when I have difficulties, it is the fault of the software, not me.

I understand that participation is strictly voluntary. I am free to withdraw my participation at any time, before or during the session. I may also refuse to perform any task or answer any question. I may also request that the video camera be turned off at any time. If I am a student, my grades and academic standing will in no way be affected by my participation as a research subject, or my choice not to participate.

I have received assurance from the researchers that everything that happens during the session will remain strictly confidential. Anonymity will be assured because my name will not be recorded anywhere. The report resulting from this study will only be read by the TA or the instructor. The tape will be erased.

There are two copies of this consent form, one of which I may keep.  
If I have any questions, I may contact the students or the course instructor.

Research Subject’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Researcher signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive a summary of findings of this research which will be available within one month: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_