Interviewer: My name is Wil Bishop and I’m doing a study based on people who play video games and how they Interact with games, as well as how they decide which games to play next based on how much time they have for play sessions and what mood they're in. I'd like to go over this consent form with you. I'd like to tell you first of all that there aren't a whole lot of benefits to this. For the most part, you'll simply be giving us information that we can use to help people. But there is the risk that the data may be leaked. Other than that, there is no greater risk than performing this activity in a non-study setting. And there is no compensation either. So do you consent to this?

Interviewee ([Participant 1]): I do.

Interviewer: What kinds of games and game modes within those games do you like to play?

Interviewee: Um, honestly I’ve played a lot of genres before. RPG games, first-person shooters, and a lot of story driven games as well. I started out with a lot of Nintendo consoles and Playstation. And I recently built a PC. I haven't actually had much time to play on that, but you know, a lot of the mainstream games too. Like sports games as well like fifa and even WWE. Um, I've tried Madden here and there too, but um, like Call of Duty. A lot of battle role games, too. So i've kind of tried a lot,

Interviewer: So out of all those things you talk about, has it kind of changed, what your favorite genre is? Would you say you have a favorite genre at the moment?

Interviewee: I think two of my favorite genres, especially when I'm just playing by myself. It's definitely a story driven game and RPGs as well because you get to grind out. But i think my favorite game is Uncharted from PlayStation. Um, just because I really like the story. My second choice would be like really any multiplayer game because I have some good friends that I play with a lot. And honestly, even if it's a serious game or a stupid game, it's just fun to play with other people.

Interviewer: Do you think it would impact you whether or not you're going to play a game based on, you know, whether your friend is playing that game?

Interviewee: That would definitely impact my decision making when I choose a game because obviously, like, you know, if I'm alone, it’s probably mostly multiplier games. Um, I feel like now I don't have as much fun if I’m playing like a cod by myself, you know? I mean, um, so in that case, I'd play more of a story-based game. But if my friends are online, I'm going to use that time to play with them. Just because you know, I don't know when they're gonna be online next.

Interviewer: So with the games you play with other people, you mentioned Call of Duty. Is that for the most part, what you play? The shooters? FPS games?

Interviewee: Not actually necessarily. We kind of like cycles, so when we get on, we play a lot of FPS games like Borderlands as well. I'm actually playing that right now with my friend, but then um, we actually grew up on WWE, so even to this day, it's kind of nostalgic to play the games. Like the game has been the same for like 20 years, they don't like, improve it all, but um, so technically and like if we get… if there's like a big new game, we're going to try it out too. Um, but we don't just stick to COD but that's probably one of the main ones over the years and WWE at least for my specific friend group. Those are probably the two biggest franchises that we've played together. But again, like when Apex (Legends) came out, we played that obviously for now we played that so I honestly like a variety as well

Interviewer: And then you talked about the PC and consoles. Do you ever play anything with a Nintendo Switch or a Steam Deck, or a phone, which is portable?

Interviewee: Um, actually I used to have a PSP and then PS Vita, and a DS actually before even that. I never had a lot of games or anything, but I definitely like, use portable consoles. I guess you could say that handheld consoles were my first gateways into gaming. I don't have a (Nintendo) Switch but my roommate does. So we have definitely played a lot on the Switch as well. Um, but yeah, primarily right now, I don't have too much time to game, but when I’m at home, which is where my PC is—I don't have a handheld, is what I’m trying to say, currently, but I started out with them.

Interviewer: So you would say you don't necessarily play games, like, if you're in the waiting room or something for the doctor, you wouldn't play a game at that point?

Interviewee: I mean, not really anymore and like, even before a few years ago, even if I don't have like, if I didn't have a handheld on me at the time, like I probably would have pulled my phone out and played something on that even. Like Clash of Clans or something like that. But honestly, I’ve found that recently I haven't really been—I don't really play any games on my phone either. Like I'm just—I feel like I’ve kind of moved on from that. Um, if I’m like, waiting around, I'm probably just gonna go on social media or something else. I feel like I usually don't play games anymore if I'm waiting around.

Interviewer: So gaming is more for the immersion and more of a deep—like, you're gonna do it for a longer period of time?

Interviewee: Well, if there's a really popular app, I might check it out. You know what I mean? But I tend to not really play games on my phone anymore.

Interviewer: Are there different games you prefer playing when you have a certain amount of time? Like, if you're playing a story game, would you want like hours to play it versus you might play an FPS for a shorter time or how does that work?

Interviewee: Yeah. Um, Honestly, it's very, very variable. Um with FPS games, when I'm with someone else, it depends on their timeline too. Um, sometimes I've played for like, literally only like one or two games like 10, 20 minutes if we just have like a little bit of time where we don't have anything to do. Other times, we've played for like five, six hours. And kind of the same thing with story driven games. I feel like maybe, um, if I don't have as much time, maybe I won't really start it that much. But even then, like, I've definitely played a story-driven game for like 30 minutes at one point or like I almost finished the game, you know, another day, you know what I mean? So, it kind of depends on my time really? I don't really have—I don't really, like, set time aside, um, like that. I don’t always keep a consistent schedule for playing games. I just fit whatever I can if I can there.

Interviewer: And then, do you ever spend a lot of time searching for a game or do you usually know what game you want to play?

Interviewee: Um, I think I've kind of learned my interests at this point. So usually I know when a game I'm interested in is coming out through trailers and things like that. So usually, I don't search for games, but at the same time, especially if me and my friends are bored, we might try and find a multiplayer game to try out. Um, so, you know, I think with a lot of the mainstream games, I kind of expect to know whether I want to play it or not. Um, but there are sometimes a few occasional times where we do look at, like, what is there? Anything else that we might have missed that we want to play? But usually, we know what's going to come out and things like that.

Interviewer: Is there any specific time in the day? You talked about how you don't necessarily set time aside. Is there any time in the day, which is more likely to be free for you to play games?

Interviewee: Um, a while ago, like, before I came to the U [University of Minnesota], I would say definitely like towards at night um like 7 PM all the way up till you know who knows especially if it was like a weeknight—if it was a weekend, sorry. But if it's also a weekend then I would sometimes have time in the day but I would say typically, especially for weekdays, I would have time at night, if I do have any time at all that day because usually in the morning, I have to do something, you know. But yeah, so even now like in college, I actually don't have much time. In my apartment, I don't have my, like, my Playstation, my Xbox, or my PC. So, I don't really game too much. We do have the Switch setup in our apartment, so if friends are over, usually we play that at night, but yeah.

Interviewer: Have you ever played a game and then you wanted to keep playing the game, but maybe a different game mode? So you're looking within the same game for a different mode? Maybe a battle royale mode, something like that?

Interviewee: Yeah, um, I'm assuming you mean like not difficulty wise but like a whole different mode. So, yeah, multiplayer or battle around.

Interviewer: Yeah, for example, in an MMO, there might be raids, quests, that kind of thing.

Interviewee: Yeah. Yeah. We definitely do that. Um, Again usually like these types of games, I feel like i play with my friends more like i'm thinking of more multiplayer games, like, um, like Warzone for instance, there's different modes in that. And we've definitely tried out a few. We usually find a main one that we tend to go to but we've definitely, we always explore a little bit. Yeah. Um, Then again, there are a few game modes where we never never really try. Um, but no, we do look around, I would say, yeah.

Interviewer: Let's say you just ended a story based game. Would you want a similar story-based game or something different? Something with a different mood or feeling or different game mechanics?

Interviewee: Um, I mean, I like similar vibes of like on, for instance, Uncharted I mentioned earlier like um, I obviously enjoyed playing all the games. And there's going to be similarities between them, but at the same time there's like you could see and appreciate the improvements through each generation of the game. Especially when it goes up a generation of consoles. So, um, you know, obviously I appreciate different levels to the story and differences to keep it fresh. But I don't honestly mind if a lot of the aspects are similar because that's what made me like the game. Um, so, honestly, it kind of depends on the game, like, I guess some games do that well, some games I just don't like the differences, but yeah, I tend to not really care too much, um, to look for something different.

Interviewer: And has there ever been a time where you played a game where it wasn't necessarily—you didn't necessarily like playing it but you almost felt compelled? Or no?

Interviewee: Um, I guess, like, obviously, most games we’ve played like we either stick with it or we try just because we're interested in it, and if we don't like it, we don't play it. Yeah. Um, there's never really a moment where, like I already know I don't like a game and I'm gonna play it unless, like, my friends want to because then that's what makes it fun. It's not the game itself. And that situation is usually, it's like a popular game that we should just check out, you know, even if we think it's not going to be good. Yeah, um but yeah.

Interviewer: So you've never gotten stuck, uh, for example, trying to get a high score or something and you're kind of burnt out?But you really want to get the next rank or something?

Interviewee: Actually I have had that. I've definitely been there. Um, like I get tired of games. Yeah. Yeah. Um, but if in order to like, you know, achieve something in a certain amount of time, if that—if I really want that, I'm going to do that. Um, like rank up. There's a lot of limited-time like quests and things like that that you need to do. So, you know, if i find that it's worth it and especially if I'm like, pressured by my other friends if they already have that or something. So I probably would do that but it just depends on how valuable I think it is and how much time it's worth.

Interviewee: Yeah. And then certain people feel like the mood for certain games is specific. So they'll play a different game when they're looking for a different mood. Like Uncharted is kind of adventurous and stuff and then they're some more like, soft emotional type games that are like sad or something like that. Is there ever a time where you ever think like oh, I want a sad game, or I want an adventurous game or that kind of thing?

Interviewee: Um, I definitely have like, I definitely at times enjoy other games um like other genres. Um, I think it kind of goes back to how much time I have to, like, if it's a, like, really good story, I tend to think I'd want to spend more time on it. So, if i have only like 10 minutes, i might not choose like, The Last of Us, or i'm trying to, or something like that. Um, again, it depends on if i'm playing by myself, or with my friends because um, platformers like fall guys, you've heard of it, like it's like even though it's a stupid game, I enjoy it too at the time.

Interviewer: Alright, thank you for your time.

Interviewee: Yeah, no problem.