

How to Avoid MTurk's Extra 20% Price Gouge: A Click-by-Click Guide for Academic Requesters

Compiled by Charles Foster of Stanford's Laboratory for Social Research (lsr.stanford.edu)

Start a New Project

Categorization

- Data Collection
- Moderation of an Image
- Sentiment
- Survey
- Survey Link**
- Tagging of an Image
- Transcription from A/V
- Transcription from an Image
- Writing
- Other

Example of Categorization

Choose the best category for this image

[View Instructions](#) ↓



Select the room location in home for this picture. Seating areas outside are outside not living. Offices or dens are living not bedrooms. Bedrooms should contain a bed in the picture.

- ☐ kitchen
- ☐ living
- ☐ bath
- ☐ bed
- ☐ outside

You must ACCEPT the HIT before you can submit the results.

Create Project »

Start a New Project

Categorization

Data Collection

Moderation of an Image

Sentiment

Survey

Survey Link

Tagging of an Image

Transcription from A/V

Transcription from an Image

Writing

Other

Example of Survey Link

Instructions

We are conducting an academic survey about social networks. We need to understand your opinion about social networks. Select the link below to complete the survey. At the end of the survey, you will receive a code to paste into the box below to receive credit for taking our survey.

Make sure to leave this window open as you complete the survey. When you are finished, you will return to this page to paste the code into the box.

Template note for Requesters - To verify that Workers actually complete your survey, require each Worker to enter a unique survey completion code to your HIT. Consult with your survey service provider on how to generate this code at the end of your survey.

Survey link:

<http://www.linktomysurvey.com>

Provide the survey code here:

e.g. 123456

You must ACCEPT the HIT before you can submit the results.

Create Project »

Leave feedback for this page.

Edit Project

Specify the properties that are common for all of the HITs created using this project.

1 Enter Properties

2 Design Layout

3 Preview and Finish

Project Name:

SU150718A (Example Study)

This name is not displayed to Workers.

Describe your HIT to Workers

Title

Answer a survey about your opinions

Describe the task to Workers. Be as specific as possible, e.g. "answer a survey about movies", instead of "short survey", so Workers know what to expect.

Description

Give us your opinion about our products

Give more detail about this task. This gives Workers a bit more information before they decide to view your HIT.

Keywords

survey, demographics

Provide keywords that will help Workers search for your HITs.

☐ This project may contain potentially explicit or offensive content, for example, nudity. [\(See details\)](#)

Fill in the usual study specifics here

Setting up your HIT

Reward per assignment

\$

0.05

Tip: Consider how long it will take a Worker to complete each task. A 30 second task that pays \$0.05 is a \$6.00 hourly wage.

Number of assignments per HIT

20

How many unique Workers do you want to work on each HIT?

Time allotted per assignment

1

Hours



Setting up your HIT

Reward per assignment

\$ 0.05

Tip: Consider how long it will take a Worker to complete each task. A 30 second task that pays \$0.05 is a \$6.00 hourly wage.

Number of assignments per HIT

9

How many unique Workers do you want to work on each HIT?

Time allotted per assignment

1 Hours

Maximum time a Worker has to work on a single task. Be generous so that Workers are not rushed.

HIT expires in

7 Days

Maximum time your HIT will be available to Workers on Mechanical Turk.

Auto-approve and pay Workers in

3 Days

This is the amount of time you have to reject a Worker's assignment after they submit the assignment.

[Advanced »](#)

Save

Design Layout

Edit Project

Use the HTML editor below to design the layout of your HIT. This layout is common for all of the HITs created with this project. You can define variables for data that will vary from HIT to HIT ([Learn more](#)).

1 Enter Properties

2 Design Layout

3 Preview and Finish

Project Name: SU150718A (Example Study)

This name is not displayed to Workers.

Frame Height

450

Height in pixels of the frame your HIT will be displayed in to Workers. Adjust the height appropriately to minimize scrolling for Workers.

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Source

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Source

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<!-- For help on using this template, see the blog post: http://mechanicalturk.typepad.com/blog/2014/04/editing-the-survey-link-project-template-in-the-ui.html -->
<!-- Bootstrap v3.0.3 -->
<link href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/mturk-public/bs30/css/bootstrap.min.css" rel="stylesheet" />
<section class="container" id="SurveyLink" style="margin-bottom:15px; padding: 10px 10px; font-family: Verdana, Geneva, sans-serif; color:#333333; font-size:0.9em;
">
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<div class="panel panel-primary">
<div class="panel-heading"><strong>Instructions</strong></div>

<div class="panel-body">
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<p style="font-size: 0.9em; font-style:italic; background-color:#e0e0e0; padding:10px;"><strong>Template note for Requesters </strong>- To verify that Workers actually complete your survey, require each Worker to enter a <span style="text-decoration:underline;">unique</span> survey completion code to your HIT. Consult with your survey service provider on how to generate this code at the end of your survey.</p>
</div>
</div>
<!-- End Instruction -->

<table>
  <tbody>
```



Unique Turker

Overview:

Unique Turker is a service that allows requesters on Amazon Mechanical Turk to limit the number of times that a single worker may work on a group of HITs. This service may be useful for:

- **Psychology or other scientific experiments**, where unique workers are needed across a group of HITs.
- **Surveys or promotions**, where you want to limit the number of HITs that a single worker may accept.
- Any other task that could benefit from distinct workers.

Instructions:

Use the form to the right to generate a custom script that you can copy and paste into the HTML of one or more of your HITs. The script will enforce a "Max # HITs / worker" constraint across all HITs where it appears.

Note: Be sure to use the same "unique identifier" across your multiple HITs. Scripts with different identifiers will use different databases.

Not sure where to paste the script? Try clicking "Edit HTML" in the "Design Layout" section of your HIT. Then, paste the script at the top of your HIT's HTML.

Limitations: Some workers are able to circumvent this script, so please double check submissions for duplicate Worker IDs.

Questions? [Email me](#).

Unique identifier:

Required: used to group your HITs (defaults to a random string)

Max # HITs / worker:

Required: enter 1 for unique workers

Email address:

Recommended: stay informed about changes, outages and updates to Unique Turker

Get Script ➔



Unique Turker

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Questions? [Email me.](#)

For each distinct survey, make sure you use a different unique identifier, or else workers will be barred from other surveys of yours!

Unique identifier:

Required: used to group your HITs (defaults to a random string)

SU150718A

Max # HITs / worker:

Required: enter 1 for unique workers

1

Email address:

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Copy and paste this script into your HIT HTML:

```
<script src="//uniqueturker.myleott.com/lib.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">
(function(){
  var ut_id = "SU150718A";
  if (UTWorkerLimitReached(ut_id)) {
    document.getElementById('mturk_form').style.display
= 'none';
    document.getElementsByTagName('body')[0].innerHTML
= "You have already completed the maximum number of HITs
allowed by this requester. Please click 'Return HIT' to
avoid any impact on your approval rating.";
  }
})();
</script>
```

Start Over ➔



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})();
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Copy

Start Over ➔

[Terms of Service](#)

Edit Project

Use the HTML editor below to design the layout of your HIT. This layout is common for all of the HITs created with this project. You can define variables for data that will vary from HIT to HIT ([Learn more](#)).

1 Enter Properties

2 Design Layout

3 Preview and Finish

Project Name: SU150718A (Example Study)

This name is not displayed to Workers.

Frame Height

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Height in pixels of the frame your HIT will be displayed in to Workers. Adjust the height appropriately to minimize scrolling for Workers.

Paste at the top



```
<!-- For help on using this template, see the blog post: http://mechanicalturk.typepad.com/blog/2014/04/editing-the-survey-link-project-template-in-the-ui.html -->
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Frame Height

Height in pixels of the frame your HIT will be displayed in to Workers. Adjust the height appropriately to minimize scrolling for Workers.

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```
});
function turkGetParam( name ) { // This function gets URL parameters
    name = name.replace(/\[/, "\\[").replace(/\]/, "\\]");
    var regexS = "[\\?&]" + name + "=(^&#)*";
    var regex = new RegExp( regexS );
    var results = regex.exec( window.location.href );
    if( results == null )
        return "";
    else
        return results[1];
}
</script>
<!-- For help on using this template, see the blog post: http://mechanicalturk.typepad.com/blog/2014/04/editing-the-survey-link-project-template-in-the-ui.html -->
<!-- Bootstrap v3.0.3 -->
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</div>
```

Then go to the bottom of the source code

Height in pixels of the frame your HTI will be displayed in to workers. Adjust the height appropriately to minimize scrolling for workers.

Save Preview

Format Font U I B A Ix [Icons] Source

```
</div>
<!-- End Instruction -->

<table>
  <tbody>
    <tr>
      <td><strong>Survey link:</strong></td>
      <td><a href="http://www.linktomysurvey.com" target="_blank">http://www.linktomysurvey.com</a></td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <td><strong>Provide the survey code here:</strong></td>
      <td style="vertical-align: middle;"><input class="form-control" id="surveycode" name="surveycode" placeholder="e.g. 123456" type="text" /></td>
    </tr>
  </tbody>
</table>
</div>
</section>
<!-- close container section -->
<style type="text/css">td {
  font-size:1.0em;
  padding:5px 5px;
}
</style>
<!--${filler}-->
```

Then, click on source again.

All we're doing here is adding a comment at the end of the code so that we'll be able to create multiple HITs at once. It won't have any effect on the layout. I chose to call it "filler", but you can replace that label if you'd like.

<!--\${filler}-->

Save Preview

Your project was successfully saved.

Edit Project

This is how your HIT will look to Mechanical Turk Workers. Before you publish these HITs, any variables in the HIT will be replaced with the input data that you provide when you publish the HIT. You can download a sample of the input file for this project or learn more about [acceptable file formats](#).

Download sample

After the sample downloads, open it up in Excel or an equivalent program

1 Enter Properties

2 Design Layout

3 Preview and Finish

Project Name: SU150718A (Example Study)

This name is not displayed to Workers.

Answer a survey about your opinions

Requester: Charles Foster

Reward: \$0.05 per HIT

HITs available: 0

Duration: 1 Hours

Qualifications Required: None

HIT Preview

Instructions

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Survey link:

<http://www.linktomysurvey.com>

Provide the survey code here:

e.g. 123456

input.csv

Search in Sheet

Home Layout Tables Charts SmartArt Formulas Data Review

Edit Fill Calibri (Body) 12 A A Paste Clear B I U Font Alignment Number Format Cells Themes

Normal Bad Good Neutral Calculation Check Cell

Insert Delete Format Themes Aa

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Excel File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

input.csv

Search in Sheet

Home Layout Tables Charts SmartArt Formulas Data Review

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2	0																				
3	Hit2_filler_data																				
4	Hit3_filler_data																				
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input.csv +

Normal View Ready

Sum=0

It really doesn't matter what you put here, but for sake of convenience I use a 0.

Excel File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

input.csv

Search in Sheet

Home Layout Tables Charts SmartArt Formulas Data Review

Edit Fill Calibri (Body) 12 A A Paste Clear B I U Font Alignment Wrap Text General Number Format Normal Bad Good Neutral Calculation Check Cell Cells Insert Delete Format Themes Aa

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Drag from the bottom right corner of the cell downwards to populate the cells below

input.csv +

Normal View Drag outside selection to insert cells Sum=0

Excel File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

input.csv

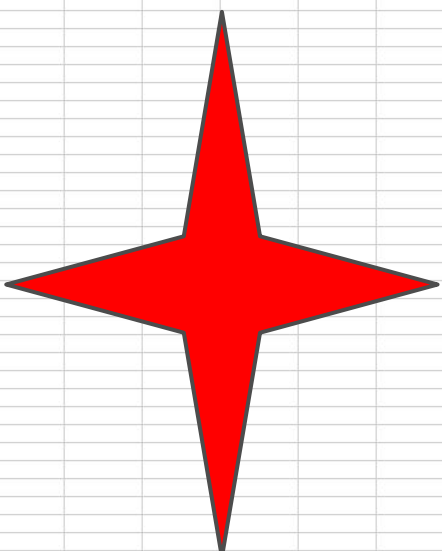
Search in Sheet

Home Layout Tables Charts SmartArt Formulas Data Review

Edit Fill Calibri (Body) 12 Font Alignment Wrap Text General Number Format Normal Bad Good Neutral Calculation Check Cell Cells Insert Delete Format Themes Aa

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106 0
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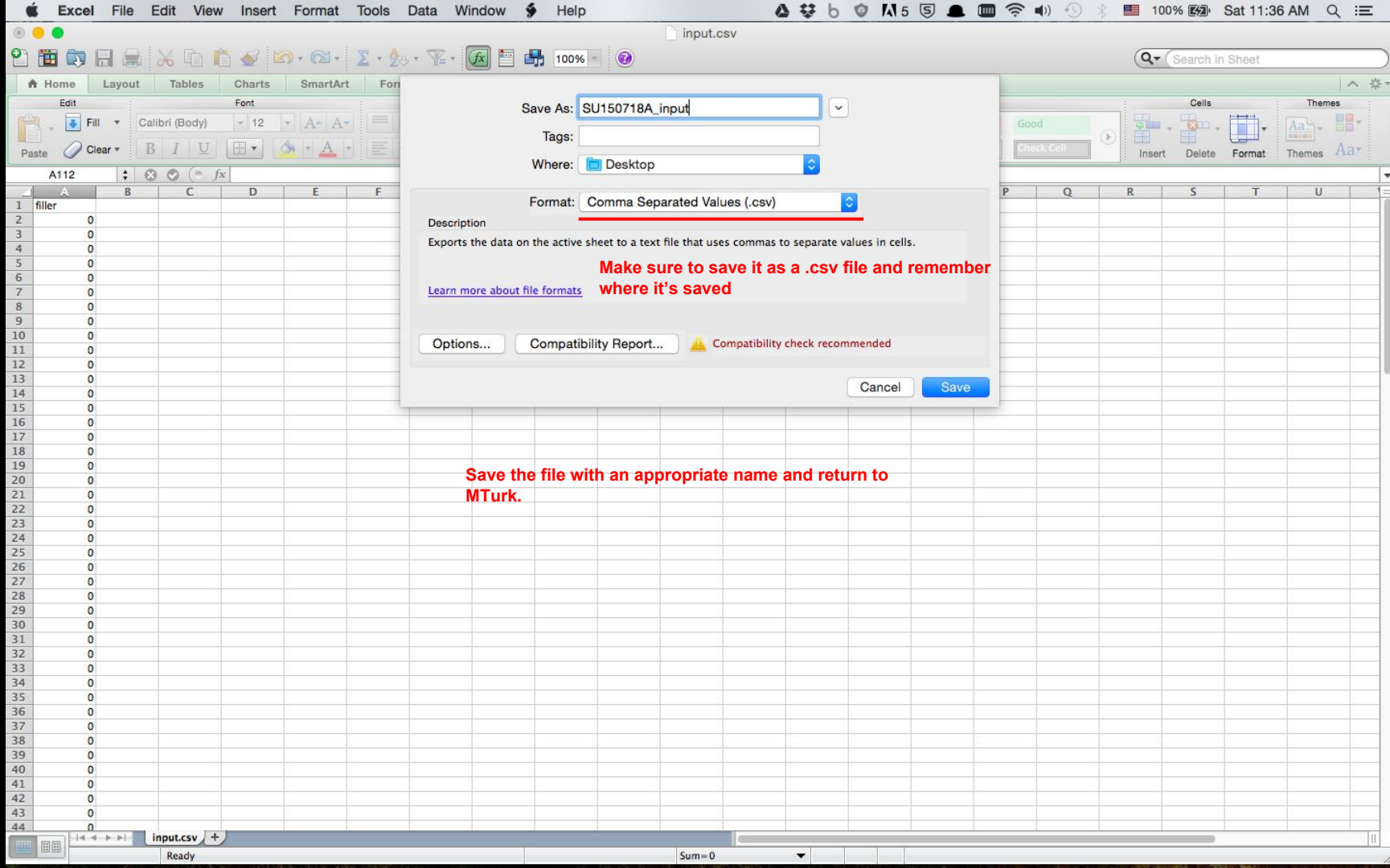
IMPORTANT STEP HERE:
Drag it all the way down to the number of participants you want to have, divided by 9 (or whatever number of participants you assigned per HIT), plus 1

input.csv +

Normal View Ready Sum=0

What does that mean?

Say that I'd like approximately 1,000 participants in my study:
Since we're doing HITs with 9 participants each, we'll need 111 HITs.
And so I populate the cells from 2 down to 112.



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Survey link: <http://www.linktomysurvey.com>

Provide the survey code here:

Finish

[← go to MTurk.com](#)

Charles Foster | [My Account](#) | [Sign Out](#) | [Help](#)

New Project **New Batch with an Existing Project** [Create HITs individually](#)

Your project was successfully saved.

Start a New Batch with an Existing Project

Project Name	Title	Creation Date ▼				
SU150718A (Example Study)	Answer a survey about your opinions	July 18, 2015	Publish Batch	Edit	Copy	Delete

[Leave feedback for this page.](#)

amazonmechanicalturk

Home

Create

New Project

New Batch with Existing Project

Your project was successfully created.

No file chosen

Start a New Batch with an Existing Project

Project Name

Title

Creation Date

SU150718A (Example Study)

Answer a survey about your opinions

July 18, 2015

Publish Batch

Edit

Copy

Delete

Create HITs individually

Leave feedback for this page.

Publish Batch

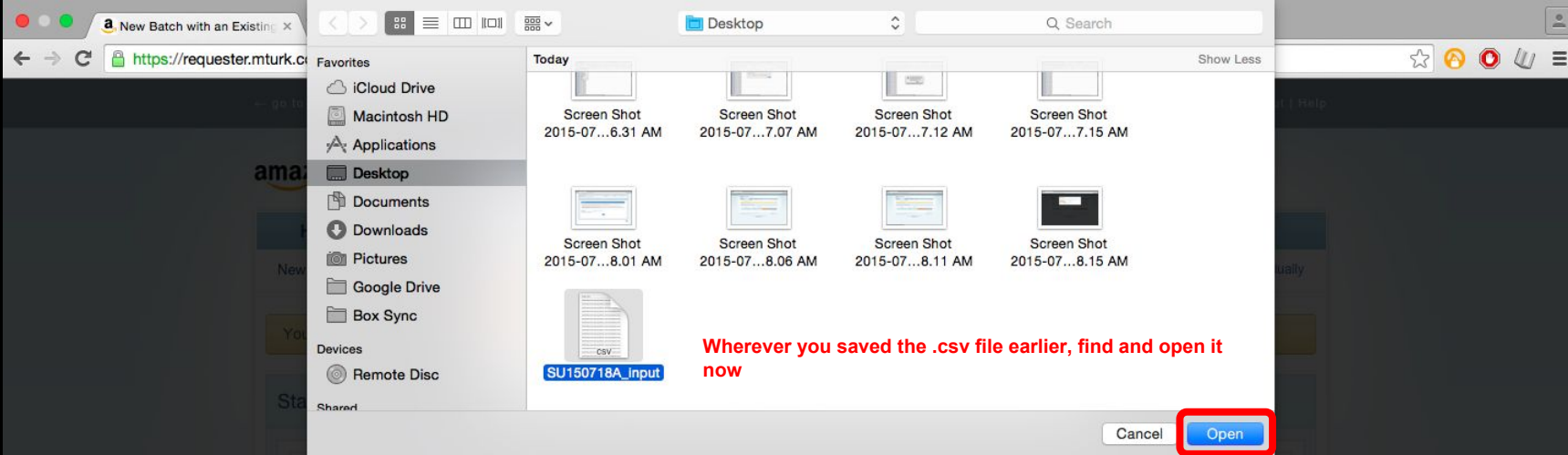
Choose a .csv file with the variables you specified in your project. (learn more)

Choose File

<no file selected>

No file chosen

Don't have a data file? [Download a sample .csv file.](#)



Project Name	Title	Creation Date				
SU150718A (Example Study)	Answer a survey about your opinions	July 18, 2015	Publish Batch	Edit	Copy	Delete

Leave feedback for this page.

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New Project New Batch with Existing Project

Your project was successfully created.

Start a New Batch with Existing Project

Project Name

SU150718A (Example)

Create HITs individually

Batch creation

Batch creation

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Publish Batch

Choose a .csv file with the variables you specified in your project. ([learn more](#))

Choose File

SU150718A_input.csv

Upload

File validation completed successfully

Validated

File Name: SU150718A_input.csv

File Validated: Yes

File Size: 5.18 KB

Line Count: 111

Don't have a data file? [Download a sample .csv file.](#)



REQUESTER

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SU150718A (Example Study) — Answer a survey about your opinions

New Batch

Upload Data File

Preview

Checkout

Upload

Your file is currently being processed.
Depending on the file size, this may take a few minutes.
Thank you for your patience.

Cancel

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SU150718A (Example Study)

Answer a survey about your opinions

Requester: Charles Foster

Reward: \$0.05 per HIT

HITs available: 111

Duration: 1 Hours

Qualifications Required: None

HIT Preview

Instructions

We are conducting an academic survey about social networks. We need to understand your opinion about social networks. Select the link below to complete the survey. At the end of the survey, you will receive a code to paste into the box below to receive credit for taking our survey.

Make sure to leave this window open as you complete the survey. When you are finished, you will return to this page to paste the code into the box.

Template note for Requesters - To verify that Workers actually complete your survey, require each Worker to enter a unique survey completion code to your HIT. Consult with your survey service provider on how to generate this code at the end of your survey.

Survey link:

<http://www.linktomysurvey.com>

Provide the survey code here:

e.g. 123456

Showing HIT 1 of 111

Next HIT

Cancel

Next

Confirm and Publish Batch

1 Select HIT Template 2 Upload Input Data 3 Preview 4 Confirm and Publish

Please review the information about the HIT batch, then click "Publish HITs".

SU150718A (Example Study)

Batch Summary

Batch Name: SU150718A (Example Study) 1

Description: Give us your opinion about our pi

Batch Properties

Title: Answer a survey about your opinions
Description: Give us your opinion about our products
Batch expires in: 7 Days
Results are auto-approved and Workers are paid after: 3 Days

HITs

Number of HITs in this batch:	111
Number of assignments per HIT:	x 9
Total number of assignments in this batch:	<u>999</u>

Cost

Reward per Assignment:	\$0.05	
	x 999	(total number of assignments in this batch)
Estimated Total Reward:	<u>\$49.95</u>	
Estimated Fees to Mechanical Turk:	+ \$9.99	(fees paid to Mechanical Turk) (fee details)
Estimated Total Cost:	<u>\$59.94</u>	(this is the amount that will be deducted from your Available Balance when you click "Publish HITs")

Your Available Balance: \$0.00 (before clicking "Publish HITs")

Your Projected Balance: -
\$59.94 (after clicking "Publish HITs")

Done!

