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Participant Information Sheet

Project title: Transparency in software development

Researchers: Yu-Cheng Tu / Professor Clark Thomborson / Associate Professor Ewan Tempero

To: potential participant

This research is being undertaken as a part of a PhD degree at the Department of Electrical and Computing Engineering, University of Auckland by Yu-Cheng Tu. The purpose of this research is to study the views of people involved in software projects on the concept of transparency. This research also aims to study how people gather information and communicate in software projects, and to identify any relevant issues that arise from information gathering and communication in software projects.

Anyone who is directly or indirectly involved in software projects is invited to participate in this research. Participation in this research project is voluntary, and you may choose not to participate.

Our research involves the use of an online questionnaire, which will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The questionnaire will consist of two main parts. In the first part of the questionnaire, you will be asked about how you gather information and communicate with other people in software projects. You will also be asked about the problems that you or other people have encountered in software projects. In the second part, you will be asked some questions about the concept of transparency and how important it is to software engineering.

The data that you provide will be used for the PhD research of the student (Yu-Cheng Tu). Data may also be used to report findings of this research in conference papers. Findings of this research will be reported in the student's PhD thesis. All data collected in this research will remain anonymous. Any identifying information such as your name, email and IP address will not be collected. Data will not be made publicly available on the Internet. They will only be available to the researchers of this research project, and will be stored until the completion of the PhD research of the student.

If you decide to participate in this research, you have the right to withdraw from participation at any time before the point of submitting the questionnaire. However, due to the nature of anonymous

responses, you are unable to withdraw data provided by you from the research after the point of submitting the questionnaire.

We will do our best to keep your information confidential. Please note that there is always some small risk of exposing data on the Internet, in which your privacy might be breached. To help protect your privacy, you will not be asked to provide any information that will personally identify you. In addition, we also ask you not to provide any information in your responses that could lead to the identification of individuals or organisations. This is to help protect you and your organisation from harm. However, if you accidentally or mistakenly revealed any personal or organisational information in your responses, this information will be removed. The information that you provide will be analysed and reported anonymously.

If you are willing to participate, please complete the online questionnaire at <http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/research/groups/ssg/homepages/yu-cheng/questionnaire.html>. You will not be asked to sign a consent form. However, there will be an electronic consent at the beginning of the online questionnaire. Please note that by submitting the online questionnaire indicates that you agree to take part in this research.

A summary of the research findings will be made available online at <http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/research/groups/ssg/homepages/yu-cheng/summary.html> after the completion of this research project. If you have any questions about the research, please contact us. Contact details are provided below.

Contacts

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For any queries regarding ethical concerns you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics committee, The University of Auckland, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 extn. 83711.

APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE ON 30 September 2010 FOR (3) years, Reference Number 2010/484