

Participant information sheet (Individual)

Invitation to take part in the research study **Practices in New Zealand Software Organisations** **- Phase 2**

May 27th 2010

Dear potential participant,

My name is Diana Kirk and I am a Research Fellow with the Department of Computer Science at The University of Auckland. I would like to invite you to take part in a research study to investigate how software practices are carried out in New Zealand and how these practices might result in benefits and issues during project implementation.

The study is funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST), contract # UOAX 0711. The Principal Investigator for the project is Associate Professor Ewan Tempero from the Department of Computer Science. I will be implementing the research.

Your manager has suggested that you are an appropriate person to participate and has provided you with a key to identify your organisation. Your participation is voluntary. Your manager has given assurance that your decision regarding participation will not affect your employment status in any way. All information provided by you will remain anonymous and confidential and will not be reported back to your manager.

As a participant, you are invited to take part in one online survey. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes. In it, you will be asked some questions about the software practices implemented in your organisation and in which you participate. You will also be asked about how you believe group effectiveness might be improved.

Data collected in this research will be used as the basis of a report that summarises the state of software practices in New Zealand. Data will be stored by a unique identifier allocated to the organisation and not by organisation or participant name. Data will be stored electronically and will be available to only the Principal Investigator and myself. Data will be stored for six years from completion of the research and will then be destroyed in a secure way. Data provided by you will be used only for this research project. For any results published as a result of the research, results will be in summary form with no risk of either organisation or individual being identified.

As with all research, the aim is one of discovery. We would like to learn from you. Your participation and feedback will be of great value in helping us identify more effective ways of developing computer software. All organisations participating in the research will receive a summary of the research findings. If you are willing to participate in this research, please complete the online survey at <http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~ewan/spi>. Contact details are provided below for queries.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Diana Kirk

Contact details:

Associate Professor Ewan Tempero

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Dr. Diana Kirk

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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 *March 04th 2010 for (3) years, Reference Number **2010/054.***