



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY IMPLIED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

TITLE: Evaluation of volunteering capabilities in open source software

SPONSOR: University of Calgary

INVESTIGATORS: Dr. Ann Barcomb

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INTRODUCTION

Dr. Ann Barcomb, Electrical and Software Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering, and associates from the Electrical and Software Engineering department at the University of Calgary are conducting a research study.

This consent form is only part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, please ask. Take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

You are invited to be in this study because you self-identify as a member of the Perl/Raku community. Your participation in this research study is voluntary.

WHY IS THIS STUDY BEING DONE?

Recent scholarship has shown that episodic, or periphery, contributors can also benefit communities in a number of ways, and that, additionally, communities may need to adapt to take full advantage of this resource. In a recent study, we identified 65 practices which community managers believed might be effective in including episodic contributors and making use of their contributions. In order to examine the effect of these practices in situ, this phase of the study will evaluate the volunteer management practices currently in place in the Perl/Raku community.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

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About 200 people will take part in this study worldwide.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

If you volunteer to participate in this study, the researcher will ask you to do the following:

- Answer questions about the type of contributions you make to the Perl/Raku community, and whether you agree/disagree (on a five-point scale) with statements concerning your participation motivations and future intentions, such as whether you enjoy participating and if you intend to continue participating.
- You will be asked to complete a survey, which is estimated to take 15 minutes.

ARE THERE ANY POTENTIAL RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS THAT I CAN EXPECT FROM THIS STUDY?

The topic of the survey is not expected to cause distress. The only identifiable risk of participation is of loss of anonymity.

Your IP address will not be stored with your survey responses. IP addresses are logged by the server, but this information will not be provided to the survey authors. It is completely voluntary to provide any personal data requested by the survey. You may use an anonymous proxy such as Tor if you would like to ensure anonymity.

If you choose to provide your GitHub identity, you will no longer be anonymous to researchers.

Answers to all questions will be reported only in aggregate in any publications/reports.

HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THIS STUDY?

The survey is expected to take 15 minutes to complete. You will be asked to complete the survey only once.

ARE THERE ANY POTENTIAL BENEFITS IF I PARTICIPATE?

There will be no direct benefit to you from participating in this study. However, this study may provide benefit to the Perl/Raku community, Free/Libre/Open/Source Software communities, and the scientific community.

The expected benefit to the Perl/Raku community is that an analysis of the current state of volunteering will enable the next phase of research, which involves implementing proposed changes.

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The expected benefit to Free/Libre/Open/Source Software communities is that the research may be generalized to other communities.

The expected benefit to the scientific community is the validation of proposed best practices for managing episodic volunteers, through the observation of a real-life situation.

CAN I STOP BEING IN THE STUDY?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary and you may refuse to participate completely, or refuse to participate in parts of the study. You may decline to answer any and all questions. Because identifying information is not being collected, it is not possible to withdraw from the study after completing the survey. If you do not wish to participate in the survey, please do not submit the survey. Incomplete responses will be dropped.

WILL INFORMATION ABOUT ME AND MY PARTICIPATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

- No identifiable information about you will be kept with the research data, unless you choose to provide your GitHub ID.
- All research data and records will be stored on the laptop computers of members of the research group. The hard drive will be encrypted.
- All research data and records will be stored electronically on a secure computer belonging to the principal investigator with password protection.
- Research data will be available to Dr. Barcomb and students in her research team.

We will be using a private instance of Lime Survey which will run in a container on a server in the USA. It is subject to U.S. laws. In particular, the US Patriot Act, which allows authorities access to the records of internet service providers. If you choose to participate in the survey, your responses to the survey questions will be stored and accessed in the USA. Webserver logs will not be stored in conjunction with survey responses. Researcher access to the survey data is password-protected and the transmission is encrypted.

HOW LONG WILL INFORMATION FROM THE STUDY BE KEPT?

- The researchers intend to keep the research data and records indefinitely for future research.
- Data collected for this study may be shared with other researchers for future studies that are unknown at this time. Any data shared with other researchers, will not include your name or other personal identifying information.

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Any future use of this research data is required to undergo review by a Research Ethics Board.

WHOM MAY I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?

The Research Team:

You may contact Dr. Ann Barcomb at ann.barcomb@ucalgary.ca / +1 403.210.6631 with any questions or concerns about the research or your participation in this study.

Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (CHREB):

If you have any concerns about the way you've been treated as a participant, please contact the Research Ethics Analyst, Research Services Office, University of Calgary at (403) 220-6289/220-4283; email cfreb@ucalgary.ca. A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator has kept a copy of the consent form.

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Your decision to complete the survey will be interpreted as an indication of your agreement to participate. In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities.

You are free to withdraw from the study at any time by declining to complete the survey.

The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this study (REB20-2135).

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