Exploring Interactive Agent Interfaces for Child-Computer Interaction – Information Sheet for Adult Participants

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

What is the purpose of this study?

This study is researching the design and creation of intelligent digital interfaces designed for children and teenagers. It proposes a new paradigm of interactive technology interfaces referred to as interventional agent interfaces (IAIs). IAIs differ from standard computer interfaces in that they adjust their responses and behaviour (interventions) in response to a child’s use of an interactive technology. The project will investigate the reasons why adults are motivated to intervene in a child’s use of an interactive technology and to what extent the motive for and context of the intervention influences the child’s response. The project will adopt an empirical approach and aims to produce a theoretical model to inform the design of future interactive technologies supporting IAIs.

Why have I been invited to participate?

This study is aimed at the parents of children currently in secondary education i.e. 11 – 16 years old. We are asking a number of secondary schools to contact the parents of pupils who are in this age range.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

The procedure involves filling an online survey that will take approximately 15 minutes. Your responses will be confidential and we do not collect identifying information such as your name, email address or IP address. The survey questions will be about:
1. The extent to which you would take an action (intervene) in your child’s use of digital technologies. Examples of an intervention could include:
   - Preventing your child from making a financial in-game transaction
   - Helping your child find online educational materials if they were stuck with their homework.
2. If a technology existed that could monitor your child’s actions and make appropriate interventions on your behalf when your child was using a digital technology, to what extent would you trust the technology?

The results of this study will be used as part of a PhD research project and possibly in research publications in anonymised form. Information about the findings of this study will be published on the project webpage (http://www.chici.org/projects/apps-with-attitude)

**How do I withdraw?**

After submitting your survey, you will be given a unique reference number. If you decide at any point that you don’t want your data to be used as part of the research project, please email Graham Parsonage gparsonage1@uclan.ac.uk quoting your reference number. As we don’t collect any data that identifies you personally, we can only delete your survey if you provide the reference number so please make a careful note of it.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You will make a contribution to knowledge about the characteristics of interventional agent interfaces. This knowledge will aid in the production of a theoretical model to inform the design of future interactive technologies supporting IAIs.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

There are no risks involved in taking part. All the data we gather in this study is anonymous.

**Will what I say in this study be kept confidential?**

All the information we collect about you will be kept strictly confidential (subject to legal limitations). We do not collect identifying information such as your name, email address or IP address. Data generated by the study will be retained in accordance with the University’s policy on Academic Integrity Data. It will be stored on password protected University computers and will be held in electronic form for 5 years from the end of the project.
What should I do if I want to take part?

To take part in this study complete and submit the online questionnaire.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of this study will contribute to a PhD thesis. The results may also be submitted for inclusion in relevant peer reviewed academic journals and conferences. Details of publications will be made available through the project web page (http://www.chici.org/projects/apps-with-attitude).

Who is organising and funding the research?

The researchers are Professor Janet Read and Graham Parsonage. Janet is a professor of Child Computer Interaction at the University of Central Lancashire. Graham is an Associate Lecturer and PhD Researcher at the Child Computer Interaction Lab at the University of Central Lancashire. The research is being conducted as part of Graham’s PhD. Janet and Graham are part of Computing subject area which is part of the School of Physical Sciences and Computing.

The Child Computer Interaction Lab at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston is the largest of its kind in Europe and is well known around the world for cutting edge research into how young people interact with new technologies. More information about this research project is available at the project web page (http://www.chici.org/projects/apps-with-attitude). page.

Who has reviewed the study?

The research has been approved by the University of Central Lancashire Ethics Committee STEMH (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Health)

Contact for further information

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

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