

OMB Control #0693-0043 06/30/2025

Informed Consent to Participate in Research

Principal Investigator: Julie Haney, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Study Title: Understanding of Computer Technology Terminology

Study Site(s): virtual (online)

Key Information

This is a brief summary of key information to describe the research study you are being invited to participate in. You will find more detailed information explained later in this document.

- **Voluntary Consent:** You may be eligible to participate in this research study. Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. You may decide to participate or not participate.
- **Purpose:** We are doing this research to discover how people understand definitions and descriptions of computers and technology.
- **Duration:** We anticipate that your participation in this research study will take 75 minutes.
- **List of Procedures and Activities:** You will be asked to answer questions regarding your everyday use of technology and your thoughts on how computers and technology terms are defined and described.
- **Risks or Discomforts; Reasonable, expected benefits:** Most studies have some possible risks that could happen to you if you choose to participate. In this study, risks are minimal and no greater than those you face every day. During the interview, there is a minimal risk of social discomfort if you feel your responses may be sensitive in nature or embarrassing. To mitigate this risk, you may decline to answer any question, and will be asked at the end of the interview if there is any data that you wish to remove from the research record. There is also a very small risk that someone who is not authorized could get access to the data we have stored about you. However, we describe how we will protect your privacy and confidentiality in a later section of this consent form. While there is no direct benefit to you, the researchers hope to gain knowledge about how best to describe technology in a way that is understandable to all kinds of people regardless of whether they have any specialized computer knowledge.

Introduction

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Research studies are voluntary and you do not have to take part if you do not want to. This document is called an informed consent form. Please read this information carefully and take your time making your

decision. Ask the researcher or study staff to discuss this consent form with you or to explain any words or information you do not clearly understand. The nature of the study, risks, inconveniences, discomforts, and other important information about the study are provided in later sections.

The person who is in charge of this research study is Dr. Julie Haney. This person is called the Principal Investigator. However, other research staff may be involved and can act on behalf of the person in charge.

Purpose of the study

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is conducting a virtual (online) interview study to discover how people understand definitions and descriptions of computer and technology terms. Ultimately, the researchers hope to gain knowledge about how best to define and describe technology in a way that is understandable to all kinds of people regardless of whether they have any specialized computer knowledge. We are inviting you to participate because you are an adult (18+ years old) living in the United States who does not have a formal education or professional background working in a computer, information technology, or cybersecurity. To qualify for participation in this study, you should also be fluent in English and have access to a computer or laptop that is capable of virtual meetings (camera and microphone) and a high-speed internet connection.

Study Procedures and Participant Involvement:

If you take part in this study, you will be asked to:

- Complete a short screening survey with an expected completion time of two (2) minutes. The screener collects information about your gender, age, education level, and whether you meet the eligibility criteria to participate. Our recruitment partner, Mediabarn, is collecting the screening survey data and will schedule your interview if you are eligible to participate.
- Participate in a virtual interview lasting 75 minutes. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your familiarity with and use of technology and your thoughts and reactions to definitions and descriptions of various technology concepts. You will also be asked to categorize technology definitions according to your own opinions.
- The interview will take place via the Microsoft Teams virtual meeting platform. During the interview, you must keep your camera on to facilitate the conversation. The interview will take place at the time and date agreed upon and confirmed to you by our recruitment partner, Mediabarn. Researchers from NIST will facilitate the interview and may take notes. The interview will be audio- and video- recorded using the Microsoft Teams recording capability. The recording will be used to ensure your exact words are captured. You must provide consent to be audio- and video- recorded in order to participate in the study. The audio of the recording will

be automatically transcribed by Microsoft Teams, and the written transcript will be kept as part of this research. After that, only the NIST investigators will have access to the recordings and transcripts.

Consent to use audio and video recordings for purposes of this research.

This study involves audio and video recordings. If you do not agree to be both audio- and video- recorded, you cannot participate in the study.

Initial below

___ Yes, I agree to be audio- and video- recorded.

___ No, I do not agree to be audio- and video- recorded.

Total Number of Participants

About 30 individuals will take part in this study.

Voluntary Participation / Withdrawal

You do not have to participate in this research study.

You should only take part in this study if you want to volunteer. You should not feel that there is any pressure to take part in the study. You are free to participate in this research or withdraw at any time. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits you are entitled to receive if you stop taking part in this study.

If at any time you choose to withdraw, you will still be compensated provided you join and begin the scheduled interview session. During the interview, you may choose when and how much to participate in the discussion and may decline to answer any question. If you withdraw from the study, your data collected up to the withdrawal point will be removed upon your request. If there are specific answers or data you would like to be removed from the research record, you may request that. You may verbally request to be withdrawn or to have specific data withdrawn during the interview session or at a later point via email to Julie Haney at julie.haney@nist.gov.

Benefits

You will receive no direct benefit(s) by participating in this research study.

Risks or Discomfort

Most studies have some possible risks that could happen to you if you choose to participate. In this study, risks are minimal and no greater than those you face every day.

During the interview, there is a minimal risk of social discomfort if you feel your responses may be sensitive in nature or embarrassing. To mitigate this risk, you may decline to answer any question, and will be asked at the end of the interview if there is data that you wish to remove from the research record. There is also a very small risk that someone who is not authorized could get access to the data we have stored about you. However, we describe how we will protect your privacy and confidentiality in a later section of this consent form.

More information regarding how your information will be protected is explained in the [privacy and confidentiality](#) section.

You have the right to review your interview audio/video recording or transcripts and be informed about who will have access. You may request that certain responses be omitted from the transcripts and the research record. Your transcript and screening survey data will be de-identified by assigning a participant code (like P10) instead of linking it to your name.

Costs

It will not cost you anything to take part in the study.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The members of the research team, the NIST Research Protections Office (RPO) to include the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) may access the data. The IRB reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of you, the research subject, and ensure we are conducting the study the correct way. We will keep your study records private and confidential. Anyone who looks at your records must keep them confidential.

Your information will be protected by being stored on an encrypted computer or hard drive in a locked office. Your transcript and screening survey data will be de-identified by assigning a participant code (like P10) instead of linking it to your name. The interview recordings will be destroyed upon study completion. Records of your name and contact information will be destroyed after you have been compensated.

Your identity will be protected to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)¹. If you consent to participate in research, NIST will make every effort to apply the appropriate FOIA exemptions to protect your identity.

¹ Federal agencies are required to disclose records upon receipt of a written request, with some exceptions. This right of access is enforceable in court. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provides public access to all federal agency records except for those records (or portions of those records) that are protected from disclosure by any of nine exemptions or three exclusions (reasons for which an agency may withhold records from a requester).

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not include your name. We will not publish anything that would let people know who you are. Total confidentiality cannot be guaranteed since all security measures have vulnerabilities and may be compromised.

Future use of research data and/or specimens

We will not retain your information for future research after this study.

Relevant research results

The overall results and findings from this study can be shared with you upon your request.

You can get the answers to your questions, concerns, or complaints

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this study, or experience an unanticipated problem or research-related injury, email Julie Haney at julie.haney@nist.gov.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, or have complaints, concerns, or issues you want to discuss with someone outside the research team, call the NIST Research Protections Office (RPO) at (301) 975-5445.

You will receive a copy of this signed consent form.

Please go to the last page to indicate your consent.

Consent to Take Part in this Research Study

I freely give my consent to take part in this study. I understand that by signing this form I am agreeing to take part in research. I have received a copy of this form to take with me.

Please provide your signature by typing your name in the field below.

Signature of Person Taking Part in Study

Date

The following is to be completed by the researcher:

Statement of Person Obtaining Informed Consent

I have carefully explained to the person taking part in the study what they can expect from their participation. I confirm that this research subject speaks the language that was used to explain this research and is receiving an informed consent form in their primary language. This research subject has provided legally effective informed consent.

Signature of Person obtaining Informed Consent

Date

Printed Name of Person Obtaining Informed Consent

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0693-0043. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey/information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 75 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Institute of Standards and Technology: 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Attn: Dr. Julie Haney, julie.haney@nist.gov.