

CONSENT LETTER FOR ENROLLING ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN A RESEARCH STUDY

School of Interactive Computing
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

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Dear Subject,

You are being asked to participate in a research study. The study is part of a larger project titled “Automated Game Creation from Gameplay Videos”. The principal investigator on the project is Dr. Mark Riedl.

This project seeks to determine whether an artificial intelligence agent can extract design knowledge from gameplay videos and use that knowledge to create new games. As an initial step, we have developed an agent capable of extracting level design rules from gameplay video of *Super Mario Bros.*. The agent generates new levels by following these rules.

In this study, you will be playing a series of different levels in a Mario-like game. These levels will come from three different sources: levels taken from the original *Super Mario Bros.*, levels generated by our generator, and levels generated by two other data-driven generators. We will also ask you questions about your experience with games, and ask you to rank these levels based on “Mario-ness”, fun, frustration, challenge, and overall experience.

Our goal is to determine the extent to which different data-driven generation techniques impact attributes of gameplay experience. The ultimate objective is to learn from these results in order to determine how best to proceed with generating new games from gameplay videos. We need your assistance in this study to gather



information about how these generation techniques compare.

Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:

You must be an English speaker and age 18 or over.

Procedures:

If you choose to participate in this research study, you will be asked to play three different levels in a Mario-like game and complete two questionnaires. To start you will take a questionnaire meant to establish your prior experience with games and Mario-like games in particular. Following this you will play through the first level of *Super Mario Bros.*, then you will play through one level from our generator and one level from one of the two other generators. After all three levels are completed, you will be asked to rank each of the three on a number of factors and to give optional comments to explain your ranking.

Risks or Discomforts:

The risks involved are no greater than those involved in using a computer to play a game.

Benefits:

We do not expect you will gain direct benefits from participating in the study. Our hope is to determine in what ways different generation techniques impact player experience. In doing so, our work will benefit the broader academic community.

Compensation to You:

There is no compensation for this study.

Confidentiality:

Your privacy will be protected to the extent allowed by law. To protect your privacy, no name or other identifying information will



be attached to your results. Your records will be kept in locked files. Only study staff will be allowed to look at them.

We are only interested in group information. The reporting of the results will only contain group aggregated results and not individual. It will not contain your personal information.

You may choose to email us. Only the experimenters listed at the bottom of this letter may read and reply to your email. Because emails may contain your name we will delete the emails once the study is complete. No link will be maintained that could connect your identity with your study responses.

To make sure that this research is being done properly, the Georgia Institute of Technology Internal Review Board (IRB) may review study records.

Costs to You:

There are no costs to you, other than your time.

In Case of Injury/Harm:

If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact the Principal Investigator, Mark Riedl, Ph.D. Neither the Principal Investigator nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

Participant Rights:

- Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about being in this study will be given to you.
- Please save a copy of this consent form to keep for your



- records.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights by participating in this research.

Questions about the Study:

If you have any questions regarding the conduct or research goals of this study please contact one of the investigators listed on the bottom of this letter.

Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact:

Ms. Melanie Clark, Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 894-6942.

Ms. Kelly Winn, Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 385- 2175.

If you click through to the next page, it means that you have read (or have had read to you) the information contained in this letter, and would like to be a volunteer in this research study.

Thank you!

Dr. Mark Riedl (riedl@cc.gatech.edu)

Matthew Guzdial (mguzdial3@gatech.edu)

