STUDY TITLE: Programming Methodology Study.

Protocol Director: Behram Mistree.

DESCRIPTION: You are invited to participate in a research study on how people write and learn to write computer programs. You will be asked to register with your SUNET ID for this study, install plugins to your typical programming environment (Eclipse, emacs, etc.) that record your keystrokes within your programming editor, manually upload logged data files (or permit the installed plugins to upload data files), and fill out a survey at the end of the quarter.

TIME INVOLVEMENT: This study will be conducted over the span of the entire quarter. The plugins should be transparent to you, and not require your attention. You should only require approximately 20 minutes to install the plugins, upload data files, and fill out a survey.

RISKS AND BENEFITS: The risks associated with this study involve accidental disclosure of your programming data. For instance, if you enter sensitive information into your programming editor (e.g., social security number, etc.), and those data are accidentally disclosed by the researchers. We are taking steps to protect your data, such as password protecting files and roughly anonymizing submissions to mitigate these concerns. The instructors of this class will not have access to any of the data collected by this study, nor will they be informed of your participation. With the collected data from this study, we hope to design programming tools and programming languages that are more relevant, useful, and accessible than those that currently exist; however, we cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefit from this study. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your grades in this class or school.

PAYMENTS: You will receive $15 for filling out two surveys and turning in complete and parse-able data files for all assignments in your course. Subjects that turn in a partial set of files (as long as they turn in both surveys) will receive a pro-rated payment in return.

SUBJECT'S RIGHTS: If you have read this form and have decided to participate in this project, please understand your participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. The alternative is not to participate. You have the right to refuse to answer particular questions. Your individual privacy will be maintained in all published and written data resulting from the study.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Questions: If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research, its procedures, risks and benefits, contact the Protocol Director, Behram Mistree (phone: (404) 403-7529; email: bmistree@stanford.edu; office: Gates 282).

Independent Contact: If you are not satisfied with how this study is being conducted, or if you have any concerns, complaints, or general questions about the research or your rights as a participant, please contact the Stanford Institutional Review Board (IRB) to speak to someone independent of the research team at (650)-723-2480 or toll free at 1-866-680-2906. You can also write to the Stanford IRB, Stanford University, MC 5579, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

Please print a copy of this page for your records.

If you agree to participate in this research, please click the checkbox “I have read and understand the terms of the consent form and purpose of this study”.

Protocol Approval Date: 7/23/10
Protocol Expiration Date: 7/22/11