Participant Information Sheet

Flexible autonomy in multi-agent systems

Researcher:	Fahid Mohammed
email:	frm24@bath.ac.uk
Supervisors:	Dr Marina DeVos & Dr Julian Padget

This information sheet forms 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. Please read this information sheet carefully and ask one of the researchers named above if you are not clear about any details of the project.

- **Purpose of this study:**
  This study explores how execution traces of multi-agent systems may be presented and visualised to improve transparency and understanding during the development of Intelligent systems based on multi-agent technology.

- **Participation:**
  All participants invited to take part in this study were selected due to their experience with developing multi-agent systems.

  Participation is optional. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. **However, if at any time you decide you no longer wish to take part in this study, you are free to withdraw, without giving a reason.**

  As this study will not take place in a co-located environment, withdrawal requires no particular action from participants.

- **What participation entails:**
  You will be provided with a transparency tool along with instructions on how to use it. You will be required to debug a multi-agent system (of your choosing) over a period of time during which you are expected to make notes on how the provided tool influenced the the development of your multi-agent system(s). Once you are done debugging your system, you may fill in your findings in the questionnaire provided and then submit.

- **Participation exclusion criteria (any reasons why you should not take part):**
  If you do not have experience developing multi-agent systems, you should not take part in this study.

- **Possible benefits of this study:**
  There are no benefits of participating in this study. However, the information provided in this study would help us understand how to develop better tools to offer transparency / better insight into Intelligent systems during their development.

- **Data access, usage & handling:**
  All the data collected from you will be anonymized and there will be no record that links the data collected from you with personal data from which you could be identified. Furthermore, all data collected would be accessed exclusively by the research team. Additionally, you can decide not to consent to having your data included in further analyses. All data gathered in this study will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

- **University of Bath privacy notice:**
  The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here:
  https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/

- **Further Information or Concerns:**
  If you have any concerns about this study or would like some more information do not hesitate to get in touch via the contact detail provided on page 1.

This project has been reviewed through the EIRA1 process within the Department of Computer Science
https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/carrying-out-ethically-responsible-research/

Consent Form

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Please tick box if you agree with the statement

☐ I have been provided with information explaining what participation
in this project involves.

☐ I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this project.

☐ I have received satisfactory answers to all questions I have asked.

☐ I have received enough information about the project to make a decision
about my participation.

☐ I understand that I am free to withdraw my consent to participate in
the project at any time without having to give a reason for withdrawing.

☐ I understand that I am free to withdraw my data within two weeks of
my participation.

☐ I understand and acknowledge that the investigation is designed to
promote scientific knowledge and that the data I provide only for the
purpose(s) set out in the information sheet.

☐ I understand the data I provide will be treated as confidential, and that
on completion of the project my name or other identifying information
will not be disclosed in any presentation or publication of the research.

☐ I hereby fully and freely consent to my participation in this project.

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Participant's Name   Date

Fahid Mohammed   April 2021
. . . .

Researcher's Name   Date