



Information Sheet for Participation in a Research Study

Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Brown

IRB# and Title of Study: 26-717 Perceptions of Surgical Development Teams

Sponsor: N/A

You are invited to participate in a research study. This form includes information about the study and contact information if you have any questions.

We are a team of researchers at Virginia Tech conducting this research to evaluate a novel bot to aid developers in code reviews and improve adoption of development tools.

□ WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

If you decide to participate, you will complete a research study to provide insights on your perceptions of the “surgical development team” model introduced by Fred Brooks in *The Mythical Man-Month* to organize software engineering (SE) teams, and opportunities for adopting large language model (LLM)-based development tools within SE workflows. *As part of the study, you will be asked questions about your experiences with software development and the potential for roles suitable for LLM tools in SE work.* The survey should take no more than 30 minutes to complete. You will also be asked to sign up for an optional follow-up focus group and user study to provide further insights. The study should last no longer than two hours, and participants will receive \$50 at the completion of this study. If you consent to participate, audio and video will be recorded and transcribed by the research team for further analysis. We do not anticipate any risks from completing this study.

You must be 18 years or older to participate in this study, with experience using LLM-based tools in the software industry. Participants can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences. You may also refuse to answer any survey or interview questions that are not required and remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

□ CONFIDENTIALITY

We will do our best to protect the confidentiality of the information we gather from you, but we cannot guarantee 100% confidentiality.

Your survey responses will be de-identified, so no one can associate your answers back to you. Please do not include the name or other identifying information for colleagues in your survey or interview responses.

Any data collected during this research study will be kept confidential by the researchers. Your focus group responses will be audio- and video-recorded using Zoom and then transcribed. The researchers will code the transcripts using a unique participant ID. The recordings and survey responses will be uploaded to a secure password-protected computer in the researcher's office. The researchers will maintain a list that includes a key to the code. The master key and the recordings will be stored for 3 years after the study has been completed and then destroyed.

□ WHO CAN I TALK TO?

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Dr. Chris Brown at dcbrown@vt.edu. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact the Virginia Tech HRPP Office at 540-231-3732 (irb@vt.edu).

Please print out a copy of this information sheet for your records.