

Consent to be a Research Subject

Title of the Research Study: Capstone Cybersecurity Interview Study

Principal Investigator: Derek Hansen

Introduction

This research study is being conducted by Derek Hansen and Brandt Redd at Brigham Young University to gain insight about the capstone learning experience. You were invited to participate because you were a participant in the 2024-2025 BYU Capstone program.

Procedures

If you agree to participate in this research study, the following will occur:

- You will be interviewed for approximately 30 to 45 minutes about your experience with the BYU Capstone program.
- With your consent, the interview will be audio and video recorded to ensure accuracy in reporting your statements. If you ask not to be recorded, a second researcher will take written notes during the interview.
- The interview will take place at a time that is convenient to you. The interview will be conducted online using Zoom with you at a location of your choice. Or, if you prefer, the interview may be conducted in person in a private room on BYU campus.
- Following the interview, we will transcribe the recording (if any). In doing so, we will remove any personally identifying information from the transcript. Once the transcript has been quality-checked then the recording will be deleted.
- If notes were used instead of a recording we will remove any personally identifying information and treat them with the same sensitivity as a transcript.
- Your total time commitment will be 30 to 45 minutes

Risks/Discomforts

The risks of this study to you are minimal. They are the following:

Privacy Concerns: All personally identifying information will be removed from the transcript or notes before analysis begins. Nevertheless, the text will naturally describe the nature of your project. The public website, <https://capstone.byu.edu> includes descriptions of all projects and the names of project team members. Therefore, it may be possible for researchers to match information from the transcript with public project information. Anonymous quotes and/or summary statements from your interview transcripts may be included in research publications.

If quotes are included, researchers will use an anonymous identifier for each participant and will limit information that could be matched against public project descriptions.

In selecting quotes to include in publications, we will avoid passages that could be embarrassing if a participant were identified.

Emotional Discomfort: If you had a negative experience during the capstone program the interview may cause you to recall that experience.

You may withdraw from the study and interview at any time if you feel uncomfortable in any way.

Security Breach: There is a risk that personally identifying information could be leaked due to a security breach.

To reduce the risk of such a breach, personally identifying information will be retained on encrypted media with access limited to those who have a need. Identifying information will be deleted as soon as it is no longer needed. For example, recordings will be deleted as soon as a transcript has been prepared and anonymized.

Benefits

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study.

As a research team, we are exploring the effectiveness of capstone programs and seeking ways to teach security and privacy principles to students of computing disciplines. We hope that the results of our research may inform future teaching with the potential to influence better software applications with fewer security vulnerabilities and better privacy protections.

Confidentiality

All data and information collected in this study will be securely stored on password protected systems with encrypted storage. Only designated members of the research team will have access to the data.

Once transcripts have been validated and personally identifying information has been removed, audio and video recordings will be deleted. Only then will the transcripts be used for analysis.

Records of who was interviewed and when will be retained so that we can keep track of participation and contact participants in the future if necessary. These records will be stored separately from the transcripts and will not be connected in any way. Likewise, interview records will not be used for analysis purposes.

After the conclusion of the study, all identifying information, such as the interview records, will be deleted.

Data Sharing

We will keep the information we collect from you during this research study for analysis and for potential use in future research projects.

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community, with journals in which study results are published, and with databases and data repositories used for research. We will remove or code any personal information that could directly identify you before the study data are shared. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee anonymity of your personal data.

The results of this study could be shared in articles and presentations but will not include any information that identifies you.

Compensation

There is no payment or reimbursement for participating in this study.

Participation

Participation in this research study is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw at any time or refuse to participate entirely without jeopardy to your relationship to the university, its staff, or the researchers.

Questions about the Research

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, you can contact the Principal Investigator Derek Hansen (dlhansen@byu.edu 801-422-7467) or Brandt Redd (brandt.redd@byu.edu 801-422-4613).

Questions about Your Rights as Research Participants

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant contact Human Research Protections Program by phone at (801) 422-1461; or by email: BYU.HRPP@byu.edu.

Consent

By agreeing to participate in this study, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the information provided above. You also acknowledge that you are at least 18 years old and are providing informed consent to participate in the research.

(Verbal consent will be included in the audio/video recording if any and in the interview transcript or notes.)