UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA
AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

Information Sheet

Debian Survey 2016

Purpose of research

This is the first instance of what we hope will be an annual survey of Debian. It is intended to help the Debian project and community by enabling it to understand and document the evolution of the project's population over time.

In addition this study aims to determine how paid labour affects ethical peer production projects. It also seeks to bring together volunteer-run and community-engaged Free Software projects and university-based researchers to further capacity in working with this community of interest through a practice-led collaboration. Mansell and Berdou (2010) argue that firms supporting the work of programmers who contribute to volunteer projects, to the commons, will not affect the 'cooperative spirit' of projects; nor can this support prevent the results of labour from being socialized into commons. Is this always the case?

Our research questions are: (1) How do peer projects deal with the presence of paid or waged labour? (2) Is this topic discussed within peer production project? (3) What benefits do paid or waged workers enjoy in peer projects? (4) How does paid labour affect peer production projects? This will inform how we can better understand new forms of Internet-mediated collaborative work.

How the research will be conducted?

You will be asked to answer questions in an online survey.

How much time will the study take?

Completing the survey should take about 20-30 minutes.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Your decision to participate in the study is entirely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time. You will not be required to provide any reason for your withdrawal.

Confidentiality and Security

All aspects of this study will be kept strictly confidential and only the researchers involved in the study will have access to information about participants. All data collected will be stored electronically on a password-protected computer at the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique (INRIA - Paris, France). The data we collect will be archived and it may be used in future research projects.

Any reports that are produced based on this study will not identify the participants, and pseudonyms will be used if individual descriptions are included in the analysis.

Who are the researchers?

The research is being conducted by Associate Professor Mathieu O'Neil (University of Canberra), Associate Professor Stefano Zacchiroli (Universite Paris 7 – INRIA), and Research Associate Molly DeBlanc (Independent researcher).

If I require further information?

If you would like to know more at any stage or you find you have further questions, please feel free to contact:

Mathieu O'Neil at mathieu.oneil@canberra.edu.au

Molly de Blanc at deblanc@riseup.net

Stefano Zacchiroli at zack@debian.org

Queries and Concerns

The research has been approved by Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Canberra (Project number 16-210).

Queries or concerns regarding the research can be directed to the researchers whose contact details are above.

You can also contact the University of Canberra's Research Ethics & Integrity Unit. You can either contact Mr Hendryk Flaegel via phone 02 6201 5220, Ms Maryanne Simpson via phone 02 6206 3916 or email humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au.

If you would like some guidance on the questions you could ask about your participation please refer to the Participants' Guide located at: http://www.canberra.edu.au/ucresearch/attachments/pdf/a-m/Agreeing-to-participate-in-research.pdf