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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

CONSENT FORM

Online Dating Survey

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Researchers' statement

We are asking you to be in a research study. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether to be in the study or not. Please read the form carefully. You may ask questions about the purpose of the research, what we would ask you to do, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear by sending an email to cobbc12@cs.washington.edu. When we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called "informed consent." You may save a copy of this form for your records.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this research is to explore how people think about security and privacy when using online dating services. This will include questions about your use of online dating services, interactions with others via online dating services, and feelings about certain situations in online dating.

STUDY PROCEDURES

This study will consist of a survey. We expect that the survey will take less than 45 minutes to complete, but we will not record or limit the amount of time you spend on it.

At the end of the survey, we will ask if you are willing to let us to follow up with you. The purpose of follow-up communication would be to ask more detailed questions based on responses to this survey. We expect that any follow-up communications will take no more than an hour of your time, but probably much less. Providing your email address for follow-up does not mean you are obligated to participate in any follow-up procedures. There will be a separate consent process for any follow-up procedures.

You may refuse to answer any question or item in this survey or any follow-up communication.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

Although there are no physical risks to participating in this study, some participants may feel uncomfortable answering certain questions. Your answers to certain questions may reveal sensitive information which could put you at risk if it were accidentally disclosed. The most sensitive questions ask about your use of alcohol and other drugs. If you provide your email address, we will separate this from your survey responses within two days. Your email address will be linked to your survey responses via a unique code. This code and your email address will be destroyed at the end of the study. We will ensure that data remains confidential and protect against accidental disclosure by storing responses on a password-protected computer.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

The main benefit of participating in this study is to help us understand how people use and think about online dating services, and potentially help influence future design or policy decisions.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH INFORMATION

Data collected through this survey will be kept anonymous unless you provide your email address to opt-in to follow-up communication. However, even if you provide your email address, your data will be kept confidential. Government or university staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, your records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your privacy. The study records will not be used to put you at legal risk of harm.

OTHER INFORMATION

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Subject's statement

This study has been explained to me. I volunteer to take part in this research. I have had a chance to ask questions. If I have questions later about the research, or if I have been harmed by participating in this study, I can contact one of the researchers listed on the first page of this consent form. If I have questions about my rights as a research subject, I can call the Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098. I can save a copy of this consent form.

By continuing, you confirm that you are an adult and consent to participate in this study.

Profile Content

Questions throughout the survey are phrased in the present tense, but **we are interested in your answers even if you are not actively using online dating services**. Please answer based on your previous experiences with online dating services even if you do not still use them.

We would like to understand more about the content in your online dating profile(s). **For the following questions, please indicate which content is contained in any of your online dating profiles.**

- Does your profile contain any of the following **information**?

Rows

- My first name
- My last name
- My initials
- A nickname
- My birthdate
- My zodiac sign or Chinese zodiac sign
- The city or neighborhood where I live
- My job or employer
- Information about my medical or mental health conditions
- Where I went to school
- That I have pet(s)
- My pet's name(s)
- That I have kid(s)
- My kid's name(s)
- My Facebook friends
- My username on another service, such as Snapchat or Instagram
- Information about my sexual history or sexual preferences
- My religious beliefs
- My political beliefs
- Text that is not politically correct
- Information about my alcohol use
- Information about my use of marijuana
- Information about other drug use
- Information about my finances or financial history
- Sexually suggestive or explicit language
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not Applicable
 - Don't Know

- Does your profile contain **photos** of any of the following?

Rows

- My face
- My body, but not my face
- A tattoo
- A scar, mole, or other distinguishing feature
- Me, wearing a swimsuit

- Me, otherwise not completely dressed
- Me, drinking
- Me, doing other drugs
- Me, in sexually suggestive or explicit poses
- Photos taken at or in my home
- Photos taken at my workplace
- Photos taken in other places that I go often (bars, gyms, parks, cafes,)
- My car
- My friends' or family members' faces
- My pet
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not Applicable
 - Don't Know

If your profile contains other content that you would like us to know about, please list here.

- Is there any information that you intentionally leave out of your profile? If so, what information and why?

Screenshots

- How often do you take screenshots or otherwise save content you see on online dating services?

- 1 (Never)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Frequently - Once per day or more)

- In what circumstances do you choose to screenshot or otherwise save content you see on online dating services? What do you do with screenshots or other content you have saved?

- How would you feel if someone took a screenshot of your profile or a conversation with you? Are there any parts of your profile or types of conversations that you hope people don't screenshot?

Identification

- What clever, unusual, or surprising ways have you tried to get (or successfully gotten) more information about someone? For example, used reverse image search on someone's profile photo to find out more about a potential match, or made a fake account to view the profile of someone you know personally without their knowledge.

- Which of these things do you think someone could find or figure out about you using information in your online dating profile?

Rows

My real Facebook account

- Where I work
- Where I live
- Find me at work
- Find me at home
- My typical schedule
- My parents', siblings' or childrens' names
- My pets' names
- When I am on vacation or out of town
- When I am away from home (e.g., at work or running errands)
- My contact information (e.g., my real phone number or email address)
- Other information not stated directly in my profile

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- Don't know
- Not Applicable

If you answered 'Yes' or 'Maybe' to 'Other information not stated directly in my profile' above, please elaborate.

- In what circumstances do you look up a potential match online (e.g., Google or Facebook search)?

- Always - I look up every potential match
- If they catch my attention, regardless of whether or not I am interested in them
- If I am deciding whether to send them a message
- If I am deciding whether to respond to their message from them
- If I am deciding whether to meet them in person
- After I have agreed to meet them in person
- After I have been out with them
- Never - this is an invasion of privacy
- Never - I do not want to "ruin the surprise"
- Never - some other reason

 Other:

- How common do you think it is to look up matches or potential matches (in general, not just for yourself)?

- 1 (Very uncommon)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Very common)

- If you and a potential match have mutual friends, have you ever asked the mutual friend for their opinion on or more information about the potential match?

- Yes
- Yes, if I am close with the mutual friend
- Yes, but I did not tell the mutual friend why I was asking
- No


 Other:

Expectations


- How common is it amongst your friends to use online dating services?

- 1 (Very uncommon)
 2
 3
 4
 5 (Very common)

- Do your friends and family know that you are using online dating services?


- Yes
 Yes, but I intentionally keep this information from some friends
 Yes, but I intentionally keep this information from some family members
 No
 Other:

- In what settings do you use online dating applications?

- Alone/in private
 With friends
 In public places, but discreetly
 In public; I don't care if anyone sees
 Other:

- Approximately how many people do you think see your profile per day? (please enter a number)

- Have you ever arranged an in-person meeting with someone you met through an online dating service?

- Yes
 No
 Other:

- Some people take extra precautions when meeting with someone new and others do not. What precautions would you take for an in-person meeting with someone you met online, if any?

- Do you think your employer could find your online dating profile or has ever seen your online dating profile? How would you feel if your employer saw your online dating profile?

- **Please indicate your level of agreement with the following two statements:**

It is acceptable for an employer to make employment decisions based on the content of someone's Facebook profile.

- 1 (Strongly disagree)
 2
 3
 4
 5 (Strongly agree)

It is acceptable for an employer to make employment decisions based on someone's online dating profile.

- 1 (Strongly disagree)
 2
 3
 4
 5 (Strongly agree)
-

Real-world Encounters (1/5)

We will now ask you about your experiences (if any) in the following 5 scenarios:

Recognizing someone in public from their online dating profile

Coincidentally meeting someone whose online dating profile you saw

Seeing the online dating profile of someone you know relatively well offline

Seeing the online dating profile of someone who works at a business you go to

Other noteworthy real-world encounters you may have had

- Have you ever seen someone's online dating profile and later recognized them in a **public setting**?

- Yes
 No
 Other:

- If you've had this experience, what happened? How did you react and/or how did you feel?
-

Real-world Encounters (2/5)

We will now ask you about your experiences (if any) in the following 5 scenarios:

Recognizing someone in public from their online dating profile

Coincidentally meeting someone whose online dating profile you saw

Seeing the online dating profile of someone you know relatively well offline

Seeing the online dating profile of someone who works at a business you go to

Other noteworthy real-world encounters you may have had

- Have you ever seen someone's online dating profile and later **met them in person coincidentally outside the service** (e.g., been introduced through mutual friends) or seen someone's online dating profile shortly after meeting them for the first time?

- Yes
 No
 Other:

- If you've had this experience, what happened? How did you react and/or how did you feel?
-

Real-world Encounters (3/5)

We will now ask you about your experiences (if any) in the following 5 scenarios:

Recognizing someone in public from their online dating profile


Coincidentally meeting someone whose online dating profile you saw

Seeing the online dating profile of someone you know relatively well offline

Seeing the online dating profile of someone who works at a business you go to

Other noteworthy real-world encounters you may have had

- Have you ever seen the online dating profile of **someone you know relatively well offline** in any of the following capacities? (please check all that apply)

- Friend
- Coworker
- Family member
- Boss
- Employee
- Friend's partner or ex-partner
- Ex-partner
-  Other:


- If you've had this experience, what happened? How did you react and/or how did you feel?

Real-world Encounters (4/5)

We will ask you about your experiences (if any) in the following 5 scenarios:


Recognizing someone in public from their online dating profile
 Coincidentally meeting someone whose online dating profile you saw
 Seeing the online dating profile of someone you know relatively well offline
Seeing the online dating profile of someone who works at a business you go to
 Other noteworthy real-world encounters you may have had

- Have you ever seen someone in person in any of the following public-facing jobs who you recognized from their profile on an online dating service? Please check all that apply.

- Bartender or barista
- Waiter, waitress, host, or hostess at a restaurant
- Doctor, nurse, dentist
- Teacher (academic setting)
- Instructor (e.g., at the gym, art or music studio, or for other hobbies)
- Uber, Lyft, or taxi driver
- Politician
- Police officer, firefighter
-  Other:

- If you've had this experience, what happened? How did you react and/or how did you feel?

- If you've had this experience, are any of the following statements true for you?

- Content in their profile changed my opinion of them (negatively)
- Content in their profile changed my opinion of the place they work (negatively)
- Content in their profile changed my opinion of their ability to do their job (negatively)
- Content in their profile changed my opinion of them (positively)
- Content in their profile changed my opinion of the place they work (positively)
- Content in their profile changed my opinion of their ability to do their job (positively)
- I would prefer to prevent people who work at businesses I go to from seeing my profile
- I would prefer not to see the profiles of people who work at businesses I go to
-  Other:

Real-world Encounters (5/5)

We will ask you about your experiences (if any) in the following 5 scenarios:

Recognizing someone in public from their online dating profile
 Coincidentally meeting someone whose online dating profile you saw
 Seeing the online dating profile of someone you know relatively well offline
 Seeing the online dating profile of someone who works at a business you go to
Other noteworthy real-world encounters you may have had

- If you have had any other noteworthy real-world encounters related to online dating, please elaborate. For example, if you have had a particularly uncomfortable or funny interaction or if you have recognized people from online dating while you were at work, please tell us more about those experiences.

Online Dating Background

- Have you used any of the following online dating services?

Rows

CoffeeMeetsBagel

EHarmony

Grindr

Grupper

Happn

Hinge

Match.com

Tinder

OKCupid

PlentyOfFish

Other

- Currently Using
- Used Previously
- Tried Briefly
- Have Not Used

If you chose "other" above, please list any other online dating services you have used:

- If you have chosen to stop using or not use any of these services, why?
- When using online dating services, my goal was/is ... (please check all that apply)

- Make new friends
- Long-term dating
- Marriage
- Short-term dating
- Casual sex

 Other:

- Do you use the same password for an online dating site that you use for any other sites?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other:

- How often do you use online dating services while under the influence of drugs or alcohol?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never, even though I do sometimes drink or do drugs
- Never, I don't drink or do drugs
- Other:

- In (approximately) what year did you first use an online dating service?

- Approximately how many months out of the last year were you using online dating services?

- Where were you living when you were using online dating (e.g., city/state)?

- If anyone else has ever used your online dating account (e.g., set up your profile or "swiped" for you), please elaborate. What did they do? Did this happen with or without your knowledge? Were you present?

Demographic Information

- Age

- Gender

- Sexual orientation

- Relationship and/or Family Status


- Single
- Seeing someone
- Married
- Divorced, separated, or widowed
- In an open or non-monogamous relationship
- Have children from a previous or ongoing relationship
- Other:

- Ethnicity/Race

- Occupation

- Religion

- Education

- High school
- Some college
- Trade/Technical/Vocational training
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Some Graduate School
- Graduate Degree
-  Other:

- Political stance

- 1 (Very liberal)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Very conservative)

- Where did you grow up (e.g., city/state)?

Other

- Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experiences with or feelings related to security and privacy while using online dating services?

- What features do you most appreciate or wish online dating services offered to help protect your privacy/security?

If you would like to be entered in a drawing for a \$20 amazon.com gift card, please enter your email address below.

We would also like to follow up with some survey participants. The purpose of followup communication would be to ask more detailed questions based on responses to this survey. We expect that any followup communications will take no more than an hour of your time, but probably much less. There will be a separate consent process for any followup communication. You may decline any followup requests without consequence or loss of benefits. If you participate in any followup surveys or interviews, you may have additional chances to earn a gift card.

If you choose not to enter your email address, your responses will remain anonymous. If you would like to be entered in the drawing or included in followups but prefer that your responses to this survey remain anonymous, please send an email to cobbc12@cs.washington.edu.

- Email address:

- I would like to be entered in the drawing for an amazon.com gift card
- I agree to be contacted for follow-up surveys or interviews

Questions or comments?
[Contact us](#) or email catalysthelp@uw.edu
