To: Georgia Institute of Technology  
Project Title: Studying Online Communities  
Investigators: Dr. Amy S. Bruckman, Jose Zagal

Research Assent Form

You are being asked to be a volunteer in a research study.

Purpose:

We are studying online communities. We hope to learn about how they work and what people like about them.

Most of the researchers in this study are students at Georgia Tech. They are taking a class about online communities and are learning how to do research.

What will be done:

If you decide to be in this study, you will:

• Agree to be interviewed in person, by phone, or online. The interview should last about an hour and a half.
• The interview will be about your experience as a member of an online community.
• If you are being interviewed in person or by phone, we will record the interview on a cassette tape. Otherwise, we will save a computer file of your answers.

Risks/Discomforts

There aren’t any special risks in being part of this study. The risks are the same as normal activities like talking on the phone or using e-mail.

Many of the researchers are students, and they are just learning how to interview people. If they do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or that you think is not right, please ask your parent/guardian to contact Dr. Amy Bruckman at telephone (404) 894-9222.

Benefits

There are no benefits for being part of this study. However, you will help us understand more about online communities.
**Compensation to You**

You will receive no money for being in this study.

**Confidentiality**

To protect your privacy, your real name will not appear in any publications; a fake name will be used instead. However, in the case of quotes from things you have done online, someone could discover your real name if that is what you use online. Since many online sites are open to the world, people can use search engines like Google to find them. In that way, they could take a quote and use a search engine to find the actual page and discover your real name. We do not think that this research will involve very personal information, but in case it does, we will omit direct quotes that could be found in a search engine.

**Costs to You**

There are no costs to you, except for your time.

**In Case of Injury/Harm**

If you get hurt as a result of being in this study, tell your parent/guardian to contact Dr. Amy Bruckman at telephone (404) 894-9222.

**Subject Rights**

- We will not tell anyone that you are in this study.
- You don’t have to be in this study if you don’t want to be.
- You can change your mind at any time and leave the study without any problem.

**Questions**

If you have any questions about this study, you can ask your parents, or talk to the study investigator, Dr. Amy Bruckman at telephone (404) 894-9222.

If you sign below, it means that you have read (or have had read to you) the information given in this consent form, and you would like to be a volunteer in this study.

_________________________________________

Consent Form Approved by Georgia Tech IRB: January 13, 2005 - January 12, 2006
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<td>Subject Signature</td>
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