

Consent Cover Letter

Critical analysis of alternative social media systems

The purpose of this research study is to explore the construction of alternative social media systems and communities. We are doing this study because we want to learn more about these alternatives to help improve online social media communication.

I am doing this research by conducting semi-structured interviews with site users and admins such as yourself. The risks to you are minimal; you do not have to reveal any personal information, and you can refuse to answer any question. The results of this research will be shared with you in the hopes that they can help you improve the site's functionality and culture.

All data gathered will be stored in encrypted harddrives. No personally identifiable information will be sought or recorded.

If you have any questions complaints or if you feel you have been harmed by this research please contact Robert W. Gehl, Department of Communication, the University of Utah, 801-581-7313.

Contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) if you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant. Also, contact the IRB if you have questions, complaints or concerns which you do not feel you can discuss with the investigator. The University of Utah IRB may be reached by phone at (801) 581-3655 or by e-mail at irb@hsc.utah.edu.

It should take 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Participation in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part. You can choose not to finish the questionnaire or omit any question you prefer not to answer without penalty or loss of benefits.

By returning this questionnaire, you are giving your consent to participate.

I am very grateful you are participating in this research, and I hope we can learn from each other as we discuss this Web site.

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