DETAILED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

(All information is required unless otherwise noted with an *)

You are being invited to take part in the following research study: YouTube Monetization and Recommendation Policy Data Collection.

Researcher(s):

The person(s) conducting this study are:

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Dr. William Hamilton
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RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

Theoderic Platt
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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE OF THIS STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to conduct a distributed investigation of the YouTube video platform's demonetization policies using an automated browser extension tool. This information has the potential to inform understanding of the practices of content creators and the impacts of platform policy updates. This understanding may inform the design of future systems.

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to install a chrome extension built by the research team. The extension will access your YouTube channel creator studio page and crawl the meta-data and the analytics of the videos you have published on your channel. When crawling, the extension will open a minimized window in your browser, which automatically navigate through pages of the YouTube Studio pages for your channel. Collected data will be stored in a secure server maintained by the research team, physically located at NMSU. Collected data will be destroyed 5 years after the completion of the study.

WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU TO PARTICIPATE FOR THIS STUDY?

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are content creator on one or more social media platforms.

ARE THERE REASONS WHY YOU WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR THIS STUDY?

If you are under 18, you do not qualify to participate in this study.

It is important to let the Researcher(s) know if you are in another research study. You should discuss this with the Researcher(s) before you agree to participate in another research study while you are in this study.

WHAT IS THE DURATION?

The duration of the process crawling your YouTube channel will be based on the number of videos you have posted. The crawling process will take approximately 30 seconds per video on your channel plus approximately 5 additional minutes. During this time you will not need to be actively engaging with the study software. The crawling process occurs only once after you have provided your consent. After collecting your channel's data, the study's browser extension will automatically uninstall itself, but you may choose to uninstall it at any time.

WHERE IS THE STUDY GOING TO TAKE PLACE?

The research procedures will be conducted online.

WHAT IF NEW INFORMATION IS LEARNED DURING THE STUDY THAT MIGHT AFFECT YOUR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE?

You will be informed if the Researcher(s) learn new information that could change your mind about staying in the study. You may be asked to sign a new informed consent form if the information is provided to you after you have joined the study.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS, RISKS, COSTS, and COMPENSATIONS OF PARTICIPATION?

Benefits

A core potential benefit we will be enabling participants to better understand how to create videos that are less likely to be negatively impacted by the platform's demonetization and recommendation policies. This could lead to beneficial outcomes such as higher income or increased impact of their content. This benefit is not a direct benefit to the participants, but is instead a benefit to society. Participants are offered no direct incentives or benefits for participating in the study.

Risks

By participating in this study you will be violating the YouTube Terms of Service. Specifically the following restriction:

[You are not allowed to:] access the Service using any automated means (such as robots, botnets or scrapers) except (a) in the case of public search engines, in accordance with YouTube's robots.txt file; or (b) with YouTube's prior written permission;

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to use an automated tool to scrape your YouTube channel's metadata. While we have taken precautions to minimize the risk of your participation being detected by YouTube, we cannot guarantee it. If detected, you may face consequences as significant as your YouTube account being terminated.

If you believe you are hurt, distressed, or if you get sick because of something that is due to the study, you should immediately contact the Researcher(s) and/or the Office of Research Integrity

and Compliance at New Mexico State University 575-646-7177 ric_admin@nmsu.edu.

In addition to risks described in this consent, you may experience a previously unknown risk or side effect. If at any time you experience discomfort or distress in relation to the study, you are encouraged to contact your nearest crisis center.

Costs

There are no costs associated with taking part in this study.

Compensations

You will receive no compensation for taking part in this study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Researcher(s) will keep your name and other identifying information private to the extent that we can. Identifying information will be stpred seperately from collected meta-data so that your meta-data can be anonymized upon the study's conclusion.

Otherwise, the Researcher(s) will make every effort to prevent anyone who is not on the research team from knowing that you gave us information, or what that information is. You should know that there are some circumstances in which the Researcher(s) may have to show your information to other people, e.g., if it is by mandated by court order.

Information collected in the process of this study will remain confidential. Researchers will follow the laws and regulations regarding privacy practices in this domain. We will keep a copy of your contact information separate from study data in order to contact you for follow ups if needed. This will be destroyed along with all data 5 years after the completion of the study.

The findings and results of the study may appear publicly in journals, conferences, and other academic publications.

Your anonymized data may be shown to other users of the extension to help them understand the impact of platform policies at a later time.

TRANSPARENCY

Participants can view the source code for the study extension at the code repository here: https://github.com/PLEXLAB/youTube-Crawler. The extension will be maintained in order to fix bugs, enhance performance, and maintain compatiblity software updates. Also, new features might be added, in which case you will be notified to agree to new terms.

WHERE WILL INFORMATION BE STORED AND FOR HOW LONG?

The information will be stored in a password protected digital repository, physically located on the New Mexico State University campus. Physical records will be stored in room 129 of the Computing Center at New Mexico State University. Data records will be kept for 5 years, at which time they will be destroyed.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR WANT TO WITHDRAW:

Participation in this study is strictly voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

If you choose to leave the study, you have the right to decide whether data collected up to that point that can be linked to your identity will remain in the study database or should be removed.

The Researcher(s) conducting the study may need to remove you from the study. This may occur for a number of reasons. You may be removed from the study if you are not able to follow the directions, they find that your participation in the study is more risk than benefit to you, or the research team chooses to stop the study early for a number of scientific reasons.

The Researcher at New Mexico State University, Department of Computer Science in charge of this study is Dr. William Hamilton who may be reached at bill@cs.nmsu.edu.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about your rights as a participant in this research study, contact the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance at New Mexico State University 575-646-7177 ric_admin@nmsu.edu.

In addition to risks described in this consent, you may experience a previously unknown risk or side effect. If at any time you experience discomfort or distress in relation to the study, you are encouraged to contact your nearest crisis center. You can also access the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line at 1-855-662-7474 to speak with a free counselor, or you may contact the New Mexico Peer-to-Peer Warm Line at 1-855-466-7100.