

## Participant Information Sheet

Project title:	User study of Tor relay operators attitudes towards automatic update
Principal investigator:	Tariq Elahi
Researcher collecting data:	For this project, the researcher will be collecting data through an online survey. The specific data collected will include participants' responses to close and open-ended questions about their beliefs regarding automatic updates in the Tor network. Participants will be asked to indicate how often they have experienced each statement to be true, providing insights into their perspectives and experiences.

This study was certified according to the Informatics Research Ethics Process, reference number 775342. Please take time to read the following information carefully. You should keep this page for your records.

### Who are the researchers?

Meitong Wang, Tariq Elahi

### What is the purpose of the study?

The goal of this research is to investigate the feasibility and acceptance of an automatic update mechanism for the Tor network. The study will involve conducting surveys with Tor relay operators to gather their opinions on the proposed mechanism. The collected data will be analysed to gain insights into attitudes towards automatic updates, encompassing both favourable and unfavourable perspectives. This comprehensive understanding will enable us to identify potential concerns and areas for improvement in the update process. The results of this research can be used to enhance the security and privacy of the Tor network.



### **Why have I been asked to take part?**

You have been asked to take part in this research study because you meet the criteria for being a Tor relay operator. Your participation in the study is valuable because it aims to investigate the attitudes and perspectives of Tor relay operators towards automatic updates. By sharing your experiences and opinions, you can contribute to the understanding of the challenges and concerns related to automatic updates in the Tor network. Your input will help inform the design and improvement of update processes that better address the needs and preferences of relay operators, ultimately enhancing the security and privacy of the Tor network. Your voluntary participation is greatly appreciated and will make a meaningful contribution to the research.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No – participation in this study is entirely up to you. You can withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason. Your rights will not be affected. If you wish to withdraw, contact the PI. We will stop using your data in any publications or presentations submitted after you have withdrawn consent. However, we will keep copies of your original consent, and of your withdrawal request.

### **What will happen if I decide to take part?**

The data being collected will include your responses to a survey questionnaire specifically designed for this study. The questionnaire will include questions related to your attitudes, beliefs, and experiences regarding automatic updates in the Tor network. It may cover topics such as concerns or benefits associated with updates, and your overall perspective on automatic update processes.

The data will be collected through an online survey. You will be provided with a link to the survey, and you can access and complete it at your convenience.

The duration of your participation will depend on your own pace and the time it takes for you to complete the survey. It is anticipated that the survey will take approximately 10-20 minutes to finish.

In this particular study, no audio or video recording of participants will take place.

The data collection solely relies on the completion of the online survey questionnaire.



You will be requested to complete the survey once. You can access the survey using the provided link at any suitable location and time of your choosing. The flexibility allows you to participate in the study at your convenience.

**Are there any risks associated with taking part?**

There are no significant risks associated with participation.

**Are there any benefits associated with taking part?**

No.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles and reports. Quotes or key findings will be anonymized: We will remove any information that could, in our assessment, allow anyone to identify you. With your consent, information can also be used for future research. Your data may be archived for a maximum of two years.

**Data protection and confidentiality.**

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Your data will be referred to by a unique participant number rather than by name. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher/research team Meitong Wang and Tariq Elahi.

All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected encrypted computer, on the School of Informatics' secure file servers, or on the University's secure encrypted cloud storage services (DataShare). Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.

**What are my data protection rights?**

The University of Edinburgh is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance Data Protection Law. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure and objection. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit



[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the University Data Protection Officer at [dpo@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@ed.ac.uk).

For general information about how we use your data, go to: [edin.ac/privacy-research](http://edin.ac/privacy-research)

### **Who can I contact?**

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Meitong Wang at [s2447273@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s2447273@ed.ac.uk).

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact [inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk). When you contact us, please provide the study title and detail the nature of your complaint.

### **Updated information.**

If the research project changes in any way, an updated Participant Information Sheet will be made available on <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/study-updates>.

### **Consent**

By proceeding with the study, I agree to all of the following statements:

- I have read and understood the above information.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I can withdraw at any time.
- I consent to my anonymised data being used in academic publications and presentations.
- I allow my data to be used in future ethically approved research.

Once you have reviewed the Participant Information Sheet and are ready to proceed with the survey, please click on the following link: [\[Take me to the survey\]](#).

