

# University of Namur

## Consent Form

### Tor relay operator interview

The present study aims (1) to understand how Tor relay operators install and update software on their relays and (2) to get insights from the community about the current relay rejection policy. The research is conducted by researchers from the Faculty of Computer Science, University of Namur, Belgium.

This document aims to provide you with all the necessary information so that you can give your informed consent to participate in this research.

To participate in this research project, you will have to sign the consent form at the end of this document and we will give you a signed and dated copy. You will be completely free to withdraw from the study once you have given your consent.

#### **Person(s) responsible for the research project**

Florentin ROCHE  
Professor  
[florentin.rochet@unamur.be](mailto:florentin.rochet@unamur.be)  
Faculty of Computer Science  
Rue Grandgagnage, 21  
5000 Namur, Belgium

Jules DEJAEGHERE  
Researcher  
[jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be](mailto:jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be)  
Faculty of Computer Science  
Rue Grandgagnage, 21  
5000 Namur, Belgium

#### **Study Description**

The present study aims (1) to understand how Tor relay operators install and update software on their relays and (2) to get insights from the community about the current relay rejection policy.

Outline of the methodology:

1. Collection of audio data by recording individual Tor relay operator interviews (either in person or online)
2. Transcription of the audio recordings
3. Analysis of the transcribed interviews to identify trends and patterns among participants
4. Publication of the results to a peer-reviewed academic conference or journal

#### **Protection of personal data**

The project managers will take all necessary measures to protect the confidentiality and security of your personal data, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR - EU 2016/679) and the law of July 30, 2018 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.

1. *Who is the data controller?*

The data controller is the University of Namur, whose headquarters are established at Rue de Bruxelles 61 in 5000 Namur, Belgium

2. *What data will be collected?*

- Name and consent of the participants via the present form
- Audio recording and transcription of the interview

3. *For what purposes will the data be collected?*

- Publication of a scientific contribution presenting the results of the study in specialized or popular journals or conferences;
- Completion of doctoral theses.

4. *How long and by whom will the data be kept?*

Audio recordings collected in Phase 1 (see below) will be retained by the investigators until the publication of the results. Once the results are published, audio recordings will be permanently deleted.

Transcriptions of the interviews from Phase 2 (see below) will be retained by the investigator for a maximum of two years after the publication of the results.

5. *How will the data be collected and protected during the study?*

**Phase 1: collection of identification data via interviews** with one of the researcher from the team. Each participant is given a specific code number for the study, which will be used for subsequent phases. This code will be written on the consent form to allow linking the form to the data if needed (e.g. exercise the rights of the participants, as listed in point 10). Audio recordings will be stored on the researchers' computers with full disk encryption and stored on a local server in the University of Namur in an encrypted archive. Once the audio is transferred to the researchers' computers and storage server, it is deleted from the recording device.

Participants will be asked to sign the present consent form. Consent forms will be stored in paper format at the University of Namur. For online interviews the signed form may be sent via email (PGP encryption is possible<sup>1</sup>), or any other secure means agreed with the participant. The form will be printed and the electronic version deleted.

**Phase 2: transcription of the audio.** Researcher will transcribe the audio to ease the analysis of the data. The transcription will be performed on the researchers' computers using a local open-weights transcription model. Researchers will then review the transcription manually to ensure accuracy. At this point, participants will be referred to using the code assigned in Phase 1. The transcriptions will be stored the same was as the audio recordings as it may still contained identifying information.

**Phase 3: analysis of the transcribed interviews.** The content of the transcribed interviews will be analyzed by the researchers to identify patterns and emerging ideas among the participants.

**Phase 4: publication of the aggregated results.**

6. *Will this data be anonymized or pseudo-anonymized?*

In Phase 1, participants will be assigned a specific code that is then used to refer to them during the next phases. Audio recordings and transcriptions might still contain identifying data.

Audio recordings will be kept until the results are published. Interview transcriptions will be kept for a maximum of two years after publication of the results.

7. *Who will be able to access and use this data?*

Only members of the research team have access to the audio recordings and transcriptions.

8. *Will this data be transferred outside the University?*

No, this data will not be transferred or processed to third parties.

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<sup>1</sup> Key: Jules Dejaeghere <jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be>, 0xEB4CC38446E3F82F

Available from the following keyservers: keys.openpgp.org, keyserver.ubuntu.com or keys.gnupg.net  
Available at <https://gitlab.unamur.be/jdejaegh.gpg>

*9. On what legal basis will this data be collected and processed?*

The collection and use of your personal data is based on your written consent. By consenting to participate in the study, you agree that the personal data set out in point 2 may be collected and processed for the research purposes set out in point 3.

*10. What rights does the person whose data is used have?*

As provided for in the GDPR (Art. 15 to 23), each person concerned by the processing of data may, upon proof of identity, exercise a series of rights:

- obtain, free of charge, a copy of the personal data concerning him or her being processed in the context of this study and, where appropriate, any available information on their purpose, origin and destination;
- to obtain, free of charge, the rectification of any inaccurate personal data concerning him/her, as well as to obtain the completion of incomplete data;
- to obtain, subject to the conditions provided for by the regulations and free of charge, the erasure of personal data concerning him/her
- to obtain, subject to the conditions provided for by the regulations and free of charge, the limitation of the processing of personal data concerning him/her
- to obtain, free of charge, the portability of personal data concerning him/her that he/she has provided to the University, that is to say, to receive, free of charge, the data in a commonly used structured format, provided that the processing is based on consent or on a contract and is carried out with the help of automated processes;
- object, on grounds relating to his or her particular situation, to the processing of personal data concerning him or her, unless the processing is necessary for the performance of a task in the public interest
- withdraw, without any justification being necessary, his consent. Such withdrawal automatically entails the destruction by the researcher of the personal data collected;
- lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority (<https://www.dataprotectionauthority.be>, contact@apd-gba.be).

*11. How to exercise these rights?*

To exercise these rights, you can contact the person(s) in charge of the research project (Jules DEJAEGHERE [jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be](mailto:jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be)) or the University's Data Protection Officer, either by e-mail ([dpo@unamur.be](mailto:dpo@unamur.be)) or by dated and signed letter to the following address:

University of Namur  
Rector's Office  
Data Protection Officer  
Rue de Bruxelles, 61  
5000 Namur, Belgium

**Costs, remuneration and compensation**

No direct costs related to your participation in the study can be charged to you. Similarly, no remuneration or financial compensation of any kind will be given to you for your participation in this study.

**Withdrawal of consent**

If you wish to withdraw your participation in this research project, please inform Jules DEJAEGHERE ([jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be](mailto:jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be)). This withdrawal can be made at any time, without the need to provide a justification. However, please be aware that the processing already carried out on the basis of your personal data will not be called into question. Furthermore, data already collected will not be deleted if such deletion

would make it impossible or would seriously hinder the completion of the research project. You will be notified of this.

**Questions about the research project**

Any questions regarding this research can be addressed to Jules DEJAEGHERE (jules.dejaeghere@unamur.be), researcher in charge of the project.

I have read and understood the 4 pages of this form. I understand the nature and purpose of my participation in the project and have had the opportunity to ask questions to which I have received satisfactory answers. I hereby freely agree to participate in the project.

Full Name:

Date:

Signature: