RSE Work From Home Diary

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Thank you for considering taking part in this study which is being carried out by researchers at The Open University as a pre-study for an upcoming EPSRC funded research project examining the relationship between software engineering practice and automation.

The aim of the study is to collect weekly diary entries from Research Software Engineers about changes they are experiencing in their working lives as a result of organisational responses to the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. This study is currently under review by The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any concerns or discomfort regarding the topics covered in this study, you may find it useful to consult the following resource on coronavirus and mental wellbeing, https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/. You will also find this resource linked at the end of this form.

If you have research-related questions or concerns, please contact Professor Helen Sharp (helen.sharp@open.ac.uk or +44 1908 653638). You may also contact Dr Robin Laney (robin.laney@open.ac.uk or +44 1908 654342).

Please read the information below and indicate your consent.

I understand that participation is entirely voluntary and that I can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason. After beginning the diary entry, I can decide to stop at any time by closing my browser and my information will not be saved.

○ Yes

○ No

I understand the information given on this page, and that I am free to ask any questions, and/or discuss any concerns with the researchers, whose contact information is given above.

○ Yes

○ No

I understand that this diary is hosted on a server in the United Kingdom that complies with GDPR requirements, and that my responses will be stored on that server.

○ Yes

○ No

I understand that my anonymised data may be shared with other researchers, and may be shared in research outputs.   I agree that my information can be quoted in research outputs. I agree to joint copyright of the diary entries to Professor Sharp.

○ Yes

○ No

I consent to participate in this study.

○ Yes

○ No

Page 2: Diary Entry: Week One

Working life is undergoing immense changes right now. Thinking back over how the pandemic response has affected your work in the last few weeks, please answer the following questions.

Provide as much detail as you would like. You will have an opportunity to save a copy of your diary entry at the end.

How has your work changed?

What has gone well?

Are there things that have not gone well? Please give details.

Would anything have made this transition better for you?

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Page 3: Demographic Information

What is your education level?

How long have you been working within research software engineering?

How many years have you been writing software?

What is your primary job?

What domain or domains do you normally work in?

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Would you be willing to fill in a similar diary entry next week?

○ Yes

○ No

Please enter your email address. We will send an invitation to complete an additional diary entry to this address.

Please enter a valid email address.

Page 5: Final page

Thank you for taking part in this pre- study which is being carried out by researchers at The Open University as preliminary research for an upcoming EPSRC funded project about software engineering and automation. If you would like to know more about the wider project, it is described on the UKRI website: https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=EP%2FT017465%2F1

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