



**Assoc. Prof. Richard Thomas**

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## INFORMATION SHEET

We seek your assistance in an experiment on the comprehension of object-oriented systems that will be commenced in mid June 2005. All 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> students with a good knowledge of Java are being given this opportunity.

This experiment is a part of the Comprehensive Object-Oriented Learning (COOL) project (<http://www.intermedia.uio.no/cool/>) with the aim of understanding and improving learning of object-oriented technologies. This is a collaboration between this School and Simula Research Laboratory, Oslo, Norway.

The goal of the experiment is to explore students' understanding of object-oriented concepts and the strategies they apply when programming. The experiment will last about seven hours. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire and undertake various programming tasks. Lunch will be provided. Group interviews will be conducted at the end. Ms Junisilver Taij, an honours student, will assist during the experiment and with analysis of the results.

During the experiment window titles, keystrokes and mouse-clicks will be logged. You are therefore advised not to use sensitive systems such as your bank account or email.

The benefit to you is that you will acquire experience with working on larger programming systems, although you might find this tiring. You will also be paid \$100.

Information collected during this project is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without participants' written permission. The information is for research purposes only and will not be published in such a way that any participant can be identified. Your name and address will be recorded only for the purpose of payment and cannot be connected with your answers and solutions. The data will not be used at all to assess your academic performance.

Participation is entirely voluntary. You are free at any time to withdraw consent to further participation without prejudice in any way. You need give no justification or reason.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact:

Associate Professor Richard Thomas  
Tel: 6488 2733. Email: richard@csse.uwa.edu.au



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## CONSENT FORM

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the information above and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this activity, realising that I may withdraw at any time without prejudice.

I understand that all information provided is treated as strictly confidential and will not be released by the investigator unless required to do so by law. I have been advised that keystrokes and other user data will be collected.

I agree that research data gathered for the study may be published provided my name or other identifying information is not used.

Furthermore, to assure the scientific validity of the experiment results I hereby confirm the following:

- I will inform the researchers if I am familiar with the source code used in this experiment.
- I will not communicate any information about this experiment (programs and task) to other students, teachers and colleagues.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Western Australia requires that all participants are informed that, if they have any complaint regarding the manner in which a research project is conducted, it may be given to the researcher or, alternatively to the Secretary, Human Research Ethics Committee, Registrar's Office, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009 (telephone number 6488-3703). All study participants will be provided with a copy of the Information Sheet and Consent Form for their personal records.

