Information Form and Statement of Informed Consent

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, Needham, MA 02492 9/11/05

Our names are Ben Hill, Kathy King, and Sean McBride. We are students at Olin College of Engineering studying digital audio organization and playlisting for a class on Human Factors and Interface Design. We can be contacted by phone on 406-698-5398 or by email at olinaudiodesign@gmail.com.

During this semester (until December 2005), we are studying how people organize and choose music to play on the computer. Over the course of the semester we will be investigating current systems and practices and designing a prototype system that we hope may provide a better interface than existing ones. Later in the semester we will be asking users to help us test our prototype system, again through observation and interviews.

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you may be asked to use one or more real or simulated computer systems to organize and navigate audio files and to choose audio files to listen to. You will be asked questions orally before, during and after the design activities. The interviews and your interactions with the computer may be recorded by audio and/or still photographs and written notes will be made.

The results of this research including field notes, records and photos that you or we take will be used for educational and research purposes. They will be placed on an Olin College educational website that is public and may be used in presentations by us and by Olin to illustrate the work that we do and/or to help advance engineering or educational work.

There are no benefits to you for participating, other than what may be an educational experience in using some new technologies for digital audio organization and learning about the design process. We hope that the research will benefit society by improving digital music organization and the listening experience.

Should you decide to participate, we hope this would be a fun and interesting process for you. We would take every reasonable effort to keep your identity confidential. For instance, we would not use your real name in research notes, course assignments or presentations. The results of our work will be presented on a public web site. We will not name you if and when we discuss your behavior on that web site or in research publications. After the research is completed, we may save the notes for future use by ourselves or others. However, this same confidentiality guarantees given here will apply to future storage and use of the materials.

We expect that this research poses no risks to you other than those normally encountered in daily life. Please do not disclose any information that you feel would put you at risk. We will not be investigating or reporting rights management or digital piracy.

Participation is voluntary. You may discontinue your participation at any time without any adverse effects and with no hard feelings. There will be no costs associated with your participation. We regret that we cannot pay you for your participation.

If you have questions about our research or your participation in it, you may contact us or our professor, Lynn Andrea Stein, Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science at Olin College. Professor Stein can be reached at 781 292 2525 or by electronic mail at las@olin.edu.

You may keep a copy of this form for reference. If you accept these terms, please sign below.

Name (print):

Signature: Date: