Questionnaire "ELSI Practices" for Researchers & Developers

About The Research Project "ELSI by Design"

This interview is part of a research project called "ELSI by Design". A more detailed description can be found here. The goal is to incorporate consideration of **ethical, legal, and social impact (ELSI) of digital solutions** into the research and the (agile) development process itself (hence "by Design").

For that project I am conducting a series of expert interviews with researchers, product designers, soft- and hardware developers. In the interview, I will ask you a couple of questions about ethical, legal, and social implications of what you do professionally. I would also like to know how you deal with them, what your environment expects of you regarding these aspects, if you have good practices and ideas to share, and what would help you to make your work easier.

Why Should I Participate?

As I will interview experts from the US and Europe, from different organization types (universities, private companies, administration), and from various domains, the results will allow a **comparison of practices across various fields**. I will share my findings, like collected good practices and ideas, with all participants by way of scientific publications.

Recording and Transcription Of The Interview

In order to scientifically evaluate the interview, I will have to record and transcribe it. The transcription will be anonymous, i.e. all references to specific persons, organisations, and projects will be purged. The transcripts will never be published in full. I will use quotes from the interviews in publications, but never in a way that they can be traced to specific person.

If you agree to these conditions, please be so kind to sign a declaration of consent that I will bring to the interview.

Before We Start

For the interview, please consider a specific project (or group of similar projects) that is fairly typical for your work.

- If you are a **researcher**, please choose an area of research (if you have multiple), and one specific research project (or a group of similar ones).
- If you are involved in **developing products**, please choose one or several product(s) as subject for the interview.
- If you do mostly **project work**, please pick one or several recent project(s) that are fairly typical for your line of work. If you work as a freelancer, or for an IT service provider: When we talk about "organization", we mean the customer's (project owner's) organization.

1 About the Interviewee and the Project(s)

1.1 Please describe in brief what your research / your product(s) / your usual projects are about. What is your personal role in this context?

1.2 Please let us establish some base facts about yourself, your organization, and your project(s). (Most of it I'll be able to obtain from publically available sources)
- *Interviewee:* sex, role, years of professional experiences, familiarity with ELSI challenges
- *Organisation:* type, size (headcount or revenue)
- *Project(s):* size (person months or head count)

2 Legal Constraints

2.1 What legal constraints are relevant for your work?

2.2 At what stage of the project do these constraints usually come into play? Who (what role) normally brings them up?

2.3 Is the project usually changed as a consequence of legal constraints considerations? In what way?

2.4 What works well in your current practice, and what could be improved?

3 Social Impact

3.1 What social impact (positive / negative) could your project have on users and stakeholders? Was it part of the project motivation to cause a positive effect?
- *Individuals:* caretaking, participation, security, autonomy, fairness/discrimination, privacy, self-image, competence, prosperity
- *Society:* democracy, stability, altruism/selfishness

3.2 At what stage of the project work come social and humanities aspects into play? Are they part of the design process?

3.3 If the project is changed due to social impact analysis – in what way usually?

3.4 What works well in your current social impact analysis practice, and what could be improved?

4 Ethical Assessment

4.1 Is an ethical assessment part of your design process? If yes, how does it work?

4.2 What criteria system do you use for an ethical assessment? Do economical or strategic factors matter in the assessment process? Was there an ethical motivation for the project?

4.3 What are typical changes to a project due to ethical considerations?

4.4 What works well in your current ethical assessment practice, and what could be improved?

5 Conclusion

5.1 Is there a question you would have me expected to ask?

5.2 Whom else should I interview – who would have interesting insights to share?