

## Participant Information Sheet

**Study Title:** A Comprehensive Comparative Study Between the United Kingdom and Taiwan: Public Private Collaboration and Cooperation in Tackling Large Scale Cyber Attacks

**Researcher:** Chi-Hsuan, Cheng

**ERGO number:** 70536.A1

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others, but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

### What is the research about?

This is a PhD student project in the University of Southampton. The name of the research student is Chi-Hsuan, Cheng. Here is a brief introduction of this project; With the ever-changing cyber attack techniques, as well as many reasons such as political factors, economic factors and Covid-19 pandemic that can affect national and international cyber security. The development of cyber security should not just keep up the pace with the techniques conducted by cyber criminals but should go beyond instead. Therefore, by comparing the UK and Taiwan, this research aims to target the current cooperative mechanisms between governments and private sectors on cyber security and propose practical recommendations on the future public-private partnerships.

### Why have I been asked to participate?

The participants of this study are from the below two categories:

- 1) Investigators or police officers who are in charge or involved in cyber attacks investigation and prevention (4 Participants from the UK and 4 Participants from Taiwan).
- 2) Private cyber security techniques or services providers (4 Participants from the UK and 4 Participants from Taiwan).

You are invited to participate in this study because you fit one of the above categories. We believe that the information you provide will give this study deeper explore of the whole picture of cyber security, the development of the current cyber attacks and the techniques that are used. And eventually, we hope your contribution will help building a better strategy to overcome cyber attacks in the basis of public-private sectors cooperation and collaboration in the UK and Taiwan.

### What will happen to me if I take part?

The research method is called semi-structured interview, which includes a set of questions and an open discussion in the end. The interview will be expected to last 1hr each time. Every participant will be expected to attend only one time unless it's necessary to conduct twice above. During the interview, an audio recording will be conducted. The audio file will be transcribed into text. All the data will be anonymised. In

the end of the research, all the audio files will be destroyed securely. Only the transcripts will be deposited to the UoS Institutional Repository for at least 10 so it can be used for future research and learning.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

We believe that the information you provide will give this study deeper exploration of the whole picture of cyber security, the development of the current cyber attacks and the techniques that are used. And eventually, we hope your contribution will help building a better strategy to overcome cyber attacks in the basis of public-private sectors cooperation and collaboration in the UK and Taiwan. To express the thankfulness of taking part in this study, you will be given a box of cookies.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Because the interview questions are only related to the nature of cyber attacks and the mechanism of how the cyber security works, which are not sensitive, we do not think the participants will feel distress, discomfort, inconvenience harm or other adverse effects. But, just in case such experience happens, during the interview if you have any feelings mentioned above, you can choose not to answer the questions or either withdraw from the study.

**What data will be collected?**

Data including your personal information such as the name of the participants, the gender, the age and the contact information will be collected. You will participate in a 1hr-interview, and the questions will be asked is outlined in Qualitative Research Interview Schedule. During the interview, your voices will be recorded which will be transcribed into a transcript in the later stage of the study. All the data will be stored safely and encrypted, and be anonymised prior to sharing to my supervisors or for other future research use via SafeSend ([safesend.soton.ac.uk](mailto:safesend.soton.ac.uk)), which is in line with the UoS Policy on the ethical conduct of studies involving human participants (latest version, March 2012).

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

All the electronic data, including recorded audio files, scan files of the interview Consent Form signed by that participant, scan files of the Participant Information Sheet signed by that participant, and the transcriptions of the audio recordings, will be stored safely and encrypted on the laptop (with passwords) that the UoS provided and the researcher's OneDrive-University of Southampton. Data will also be anonymised prior to sharing to my supervisors or for other future research use via SafeSend ([safesend.soton.ac.uk](mailto:safesend.soton.ac.uk)). Transcripts of all interviews, but not recordings, will be preserved for a minimum of 10 years in the UoS Institutional Repository. Personal data key will be destroyed securely by using software such as BCWipe, WipeFile or DeleteOnClick, at the end of the project.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part. All the participants are allowed to withdraw from the study at any point within a month after their data have been collected (after the interview). Once the data has been processed and analysed, the withdrawal will not be possible.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time within a month after your data have been collected (after the interview), without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. It means, should you want to withdraw from the study one month later after the interview, the withdrawal will not be possible because the data has been processed and analysed.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can identify you without your specific consent. All the participants will receive a copy of the results. In addition, anonymised transcripts of all the interviews, but not recordings, will be preserved for a minimum of 10 years in the UoS Institutional Repository for future studies use. This will help future researchers should they want to explore more and deeper on the similar topic and help establishing better cyber security.

**Where can I get more information?**

Please contact the researcher for more information.

Researcher: Chi-Hsuan, Cheng

E-mail: [C-H.Cheng@soton.ac.uk](mailto:C-H.Cheng@soton.ac.uk)

Address: Reception Building 58 University of Southampton Southampton SO17 1BJ United Kingdom Room 1021

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

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If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The

University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

All data will be anonymised before sharing, which means the information does not relate to an identifiable person and has been processed in such a way that the subject is no longer identifiable.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.**