

## NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS (Survey PICT)

This is a study carried out at RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia). Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide not to participate there will not be any negative consequences. Please be aware that if you decide to participate, you may stop participating at any time and you may decide not to answer any specific question.

We aim to anonymize your responses and share the overall results (NOT individual answers) as an open-source dataset through Mendeley Data.

The following survey is organised in three sections and should take about 5 minutes to answer. The sections are: basic demographics about you, and questions about your comment practices in R code.

By submitting this form you are indicating that you have read the description of the study, are over the age of 18, and that you agree to the terms as described. Please, be aware that withdrawal is not possible after submitting the survey, since there will be no way of reliably identifying individual responses.

You can contact researchers at: Dr Melina Vidoni, [melina.vidoni@rmit.edu.au](mailto:melina.vidoni@rmit.edu.au)

Please, direct any concerns to the below address:

Reviewing HREC - RMIT University,  
HREC Secretary - Vivienne Moyle  
03 9925 5037, [human.ethics@rmit.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@rmit.edu.au)

Yes, I agree.

No, I don't agree

*(If they reply "No", the survey ends).*

## PARTICIPANT'S BACKGROUND

#	Question	Possible Answers
1	How many years of experience do you have in R programming? <i>(Note: single choice)</i>	<2 years 2-5 years 5-10 years 10+ years
2	How often do you work with other people's R code? (Not importing packages, but working with their source code) <i>(Single option)</i>	Never Rarely (e.g. once a year) Sometimes (e.g. once a month) Often (e.g. once a week) Very Often (e.g. everyday)

## COMMENTING PRACTICES

#	Question	Possible Answers
3	How often do you encounter comments indicating delayed or intended work activities such as to-dos, fixes, hack, workaround, etc? <i>(Single option)</i>	Never Rarely (e.g. once a year) Sometimes (e.g. once a month) Often (e.g. once a week) Very Often (e.g. everyday)
4	How often do you add comments related to delayed or intended work activities such as to-dos, fixes, hack, workaround, etc? <i>(Single option)</i>	Never Rarely (e.g. once a year) Sometimes (e.g. once a month) Often (e.g. once a week) Very Often (e.g. everyday)
5	How often do you address comments related to delayed or intended work activities such as to-do, fixes, hack, workaround, etc? <i>(Single option)</i>	Never Rarely (e.g. once a year) Sometimes (e.g. once a month) Often (e.g. once a week) Very Often (e.g. everyday)
6	Based on your experience, why do developers add comments related to delayed or intended work?	[Text Field]
7	Based on your experience, why do developers address such delayed or intended work comments?	[Text Field]
8	Do you know what "technical debt" is?	Yes, and I try to minimise it in my code. Yes, but I don't worry about it. No, I don't know what it is. No, but I just googled the concept.
9	Do you have any other thoughts on the use of comments when programming?	[Text Field]