Student Information Sheet

How can DIT academic staff use Webcourses data and reporting to make better informed decisions around student learning?

You are invited to participate in a study which will be analysing Webcourses data and the reporting features available within Webcourses. It is envisaged that the completion of this study will shed new insight as to what role, if any an analysis of Webcourses data and its reporting features can play in gaining insight into the student learning experience.

For this purpose I am providing you with an information sheet and consent form. In an effort to address any concerns you may have in relation to this study please see refer to the following FAO.

1. **What does this study involve and does it impact my assessments in the module?**
   This study will in no way impact on your assessment/exam results. The focus of this study is not the student(s), the objective is to evaluate the analytics features within Webcourses .
   All data related to staff and students within this study is strictly anonymous.
   This study will be comparing how the reports generated within webcourses compare to your module results within webcourses. The kind of reports I will be looking at will include

   - Login statistics on webcourse
   - Time spent viewing content on webcourses
   - Number of postings on wikis , discussion forums (if your lecturer is using them)
   - Data related to quizzes, assessments within webcourses and how this compares to student engagement.

2. **What is required of me as a participant in this study?**
   In order for me to conduct this study I need access to student within webcourses. If you wish to participate in this study then I require your signed consent so that I can view your data and assessment results within webcourses. Please note at no point will your identity be disclosed to any other student or lecturer. All student data will be de-identified.

3. **Does my lecturer already have access to these reporting features in Webcourses?**
   Yes your lecturer already has access to these reporting features within Webcourses and can generate reports based on his/her student cohort at any time. This study is an evaluation of these reports and further in-depth analysis of this data to see what information, if any we can obtain from Webcourses.

4. **Will my webcoures data be kept confidential, secure and my identity protected at all times?**
   All information relating to students in this study will be keep strictly confidential and all student records will be anonymised. At no stage will a student's identify be disclosed to their respective course tutor or any other individual. The privacy and welfare of students will be paramount at all times. Data related to this research will be stored in a safe location whereby only the researcher will have access to it. In addition, this data will be encrypted using DIT Mc Afee Endpoint

Encryption software. Any data saved to a USB or memory key relating to the research project will also be encrypted

5. **Can I opt out of this study at any time?**
    Participation in this study is completely voluntary and participants are free to withdraw from this study at any time, without giving a reason for withdrawing and without affecting their future relationship with D.I.T

6. **Who can I contact if I have any additional queries or concerns in relation to this study?**
    Should you require any further information on this study you can email me at the following address - **D07112362@mydit.ie** or alternatively contact me at **01 4022818**.

7. **Will the results of this research be published?**
    Yes this research may be published but again all personal data relating to individuals will be kept strictly confidential and all student names, numbers course codes will be anonymised.

8. **Will I or my course tutor be receiving payment for this study?**
    No student or academic staff member will be receiving payment for this study

9. **Will other students be able to see my exam results?**
    No

10. **Will I be able to get a copy of the research study?**
    Copies of this research study or any publications arising from this research will be made available to participants upon request.

11. **Has this research project been approved by the DIT Research Ethics Committee?**
    Yes.

If you wish to participate in this study please carefully read these documents and sign the attached consent form. This study will adhere to the guidelines set out by the D.I.T Ethics Committee as outlined on the following website http://www.dit.ie/researchandenterprise/ethicsindit/guidelines/. It will also adhere to the guidelines set out by the Interim Policy on the 'Good Conduct' of Research in DIT.

Please note that this research project has been approved by the D.I.T Research Ethics Committee.