

Our names are Ben Salinas, Yifan Sun, Chujiao Ma, and Will Yarak. We are students at Olin College of Engineering studying restaurant customers and waitstaff for a class on Human Factors and Interface Design. We can be contacted by phone on 781-540-9402 (Ben Salinas) or by email at Benjamin.salinas@students.olin.edu.

We are studying how people pay for bills at full service restaurants. Over the course of the semester (through May 2009) we will be investigating current systems and practices and designing a prototype system that we hope may provide a better interface than existing ones. Early in the semester, we will be observing and interviewing current users. Later in the semester we will be asking users to help us test our prototype system, again through observation and interview.

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you may be asked to discuss your experience in restaurants, particularly relating to paying bills. Additionally, you may be asked to test a prototype device which we develop to make paying bills easier. Your interactions with the prototype may be recorded on video, audio and/or with 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.

We hope this would be a fun and interesting process for you. We do not anticipate that there would be any unusual risks or discomforts to you as a participant in this project. 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. Please do not disclose any information that you feel would put you at risk.

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 any questions or concerns about the project, please contact our professor or us. Our professor is Lynn Andrea Stein, Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science. She can be reached at 781 292 2525 or by email at las@olin.edu.

You may keep a copy of this form for reference.

If you accept these terms, please provide your name, signature, and date below:

Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Include this note on your forms: This project has gone through a mock-IRB process designed specifically to educate students on the human subjects review process. This human subjects review process is not endorsed by an official Institutional Review Board (IRB). It does not constitute formal human subjects review certification.