

Help us Improve DrRacket!

A team of researchers at WPI is studying how effective DrRacket's error messages are at helping students in introductory programming classes. We could use your help!

What can you do? Let us record your programming sessions within DrRacket! We look at the error messages you got and what edits you made in response to gauge whether the messages are helping you figure out what to do.

How does it work? You turn on a logging tool that's built into DrRacket. Behind the scenes, DrRacket will send snapshots of your programs to WPI for us to study. You can disable the logging tool at any time if you change your mind about participating. We only see what you typed into DrRacket, not what you do with other applications.

We'll also ask you to fill out a brief online survey about your attitudes and experience about computing. The survey data helps us look for patterns about who DrRacket does and doesn't help effectively.

What's the risk? None, unless you mind the WPI research team seeing your files. Your NU professor and staff won't know you're participating and will not see your data.

To sign up: read the formal research description, fill out the survey at the URL below, and turn on the logging tool (through Edit→Preferences→Logging Tool or the initial popup window).

<http://kfisler-ra2.cs.wpi.edu:8080/survey.html>

Thanks!

Record keeping and confidentiality:

Only members of the research staff will be involved in analyzing these files. Your course professor will not know whether you are participating or not. The content of the recording will not affect your grade in any way. Neither your participation nor your identity will be revealed in any publication resulting from this study. If we use any excerpts from your programs in any publication that result from this research, we will remove any identifying information that may be present in them (such as your name) prior. Data obtained in this experiment will become the property of the investigators and WPI. The collected recordings will be saved in a password-protected account at WPI. If you choose not to participate, no records will be collected.

For more information about this research or about the rights of research participants, contact:

If you have questions about this study, contact Professor Kathi Fisler (kfisler@cs.wpi.edu). You may also contact the chair of the WPI Institutional Review Board (Prof. Kent Rissmiller, Tel. 508-831-5019, Email: kjr@wpi.edu) or WPI's University Compliance Officer (Michael J. Curley, Tel. 508-831-6919).

Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will not result in any penalty to you or any loss of benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may decide to stop participating in the research at any time without penalty or loss of other benefits. You can stop or resume the recording of data at anytime within DrRacket by clicking on the "Logging Tool" tab of the preference dialog box and adjusting the settings within. If you withdraw from the study, you may ask us to delete data already collected about you (send an email to Professor Kathi Fisler, kfisler@cs.wpi.edu). The project investigators retain the right to cancel or postpone the experimental procedures at any time they see fit.

Please retain this summary for your records.