

## ***Informed consent***

Title of the research: Analysing LAN Behavior of Mobile Apps

Name + contact details of supervisor and researcher(s):

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Goal and methodology of the research: this research will analyse the LAN behaviour of mobile Android apps by monitoring the LAN network traffic of installed Android apps.

Duration: this experiment will continue as long as the LANShield app is installed and enabled on the participant's smartphone. The participant can uninstall the app at any time to end their participation. Pseudonymized data will be collected until, at the latest, August 31, 2027.

- I understand what is expected of me during this research.
- I know that I will participate in the following trials or tests: installing an Android app that shares pseudonymized data on how other Android apps access the local LAN network.
- I know that my participation may be associated to risks or discomforts: although we do not expect that users will experience any discomfort while using our app, it might be that, if a user explicitly blocks an app from accessing the network, that this app will no longer behave as expected. Additionally, when the app tries to access the local network, the user will be notified of this, and the user can then manually re-allow the app to access the local network, and by doing so restore the normal functionality of the app.
- I or others can benefit from this research in the following ways: users of mobile devices can be better protected against malicious apps.
- My participation offers a contribution to the scientific research. I know that I will not receive any further reward or compensation for my participation.
- I understand that my participation to this study is voluntary. I have the right to stop participating at any time. I do not have to give a reason for this and I know that it will not have any negative repercussions for me.
- My personal data will be processed in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Only the data that are strictly necessary to achieve the research objectives will be processed. My data will be kept confidential at all times throughout the study and the researchers will take measures to protect my privacy. For example, my personal data will be pseudonymized, meaning that my data can no longer be linked to me without the use of additional information that is only accessible to the researchers. I understand that my pseudonymized data may be reused for other scientific research and possibly for teaching or academic lectures. More information about the processing of my personal data can be found in the information letter.
- I understand that I can visit the website [lanshield.eu](https://lanshield.eu) to be informed about the results of this research.
- In case of further questions about the research I know that I can contact [lanshield@cs.kuleuven.be](mailto:lanshield@cs.kuleuven.be) This e-mail address is monitored by researchers involved in the project.
- This study has been reviewed and approved by the Social and Societal Ethics Committee (SMEC) of KU Leuven (G-2024-8087; please use this number in any communication regarding the research). In case of complaints or other concerns with regard to the ethical aspects of this research I can contact SMEC: [smec@kuleuven.be](mailto:smec@kuleuven.be)
- I know that I can contact the individuals/organizations below if I would experience any discomfort or difficulties as a result of some of the subjects that were the topic of this research: [lanshield@cs.kuleuven.be](mailto:lanshield@cs.kuleuven.be)

*The participant is shown a link to this letter when starting the LANShield app for the first time. The participant is asked to click on "Agree" to give consent to participate and to confirm that they have read and understood the information in this document and that they have received an answer to all questions regarding this research*