Consent to Participate in the NetSense Study
(18 years and older)

You are invited to participate in a research study of social networks, NetSense. The study is being conducted by Professors David S. Hachen Jr. and Omar Lizardo from the Inter-disciplinary Center for Network Science and Applications (iCeNSA) and Professors Aaron Striegel and Christian Poellabauer of the Wireless Institute at the University of Notre Dame and is funded by the National Science Foundation. We hope to learn more about the formation and evolution of social networks, and how ideas and information spread within social networks. You were selected to participate in this study because you are a first year student at Notre Dame who resides in one of the dormitories that were selected for inclusion in this study.

If you decide to participate in this study we will loan to you a smart phone, the Nexus S 4G, along with a plan from Sprint that includes unlimited texting, unlimited data, unlimited voice calls to and from other cellular telephones, and unlimited night and weekend calls. You will have 200 voice call minutes per month (for calls to and from landlines). This plan is provided to you at no charge. You will be able to use this phone for your own personal use until the end of the study at the end of the academic year in May of 2013. During this period you are responsible for the phone (a standard insurance policy is part of your free plan), any voice call minute overages or roaming charges, and for returning the phone to us at the end of the study period. You will not be able to make international calls or texts.

As a condition of the study, you agree to carry the device with you when you would normally carry a cellular telephone, use the phone as your primary communication device for the duration of this study, and keep the device charged and operational to the best of your ability. The device will be programmed to capture information about how you are using the device and whom you are communicating with, but never any information on the content of your telephone calls, emails, text messages or other forms of communication. The information that we will capture will be stored in a secure database and will be restricted to the following items:

- Communication log data: Date and time of communication event, type of communication (text/voice call/email), incoming or outgoing, duration, identifiers for both sender and receiver. As noted above, we will capture only instances of communication (to/ from/length) and not the actual content.
- Phone status: On/off/charging/idle/active, application and features used (including time/date and location stamp)
- Physical location including both the location of the device (using cell tower id, router location) and proximate (visible) devices that are nearby the device (via unique Bluetooth device addresses).
- Survey data: From time to time we will ask you to answer short questions pertaining to what you are doing and/or what your current mood is. The questions will be directly delivered to your phone where you will be able to answer them. We will also ask you from time to time to go online and complete surveys about your attitudes, tasks and activities. This information will be securely transferred to our secure computer servers.
• Facebook (FB) data: We are asking you to “friend” us (there will be a unique FB project id) so that we can capture information on who your friends are and the posts made by you or to you that appear on your FB news feed. We will not capture any of the content of your posts or other communication that you make through FB, and we will not use our FB id to make posts or communicate with you. We will capture information on who made the post, where the post was made, the type of post (e.g., text, picture, link to a website), ‘liking’ activity, information on who your friends are, the adding and dropping friends, and friend requests.

The only concern associated with this study is the privacy risk. Several measures have been put in place to secure your privacy:

• All potential identifying information such as telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, social network site names, etc. will be encrypted when sent from the phone to our secure servers.

• All data collected through this study will be stored on a secure computer housed at the Notre Dame Center for Research Computing that is only accessible by the four principal investigators and their authorized associates.

• At no time will the identity of the participants in this study be revealed.

• You have the right to withdraw from this study at any time and to have all data obtained through your device destroyed.

The major benefit of this study is the valuable information that we will obtain and be able to analyze in order to better understand social networks. With this information we hope to be able to design better communication systems including wireless systems that will facilitate human interaction within networks.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential. You may ask at any time to view the data that has been collected through your phone. Any reporting of results or sharing of data will only be done in an aggregated form (e.g., all Engineering majors) and is subject to all relevant university, state, and federal student privacy regulations.

You the consenter understand that the following conditions apply regarding participation in this study:

1. At any time during or after the study you can request to withdraw from the study. I understand that if I withdraw from the study, the data collected from me through the device will be destroyed if I request that this occur. I also understand that if I withdraw from the study, I will be responsible for returning the phone and its associated accessories to the investigators.

2. The recorded information that is stored in our databases that contains any identity information will not be broadcast or published in any form without additional consent.
3. Fictitious names or ID numbers will be used in any publications that use the collected data. Data reports and publications will present information only in an aggregated format.

4. All data collected through the devices will be stored on a secure computer only accessible by the principal investigators and their authorized associates.

5. All information gathered by the phones will be encrypted during transfer from the phone to our secure database.

6. You are responsible for the care of the Nexus S 4G that has been lent to you. A standard insurance policy provided by Sprint is included as part of your free plan. Damage beyond the base insurance plan is assumed to be your responsibility. If your phone is no longer usable because it has been either lost or damaged, you may be responsible for up to $150 so that we can supply you with another Nexus S 4G phone and you can continue to participate in the study. You are also responsible for any voice call minute overages (you have 200 minutes per month for calls to and from landlines) and any roaming charges.

Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with the University of Notre Dame. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without penalty. However, upon withdrawal you must return the Nexus S 4G phone that has been lent to you with all relevant accessories within one week of leaving the study.

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Aaron Striegel (striegel@nd.edu, 574.631.6896) (Principal Investigator), David Hachen (dhachen@nd.edu, 574.631.5745) (co-PI), Omar Lizardo (omarlizardo@gmail.com, 574.631.1855) (co-PI), and Christian Poellabauer (cpoellab@nd.edu, 574.631.9131) (co-PI).

You are making a decision on whether or not to participate. Your signature indicates that you are at least 18 years of age, that you have decided to participate in this study, and that you agree with the information provided above.

Name (Please Print) _____________________________________________

Signature ____________________________ Date ________________

Phone number _____________________________

Email address _____________________________

Signature of Investigator ____________________________ Date ________________