

CrowdLearnMW questionnaire

14/08/2020

Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

Read this carefully before filling out the questionnaire please!

This questionnaire is about your learning and professional development as part of your work on Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk). The questions are about the work you carry out on the MTurk platform, the skills you develop through this work, and your interactions with other workers, and the platform. When thinking about your answers, it is useful to think about a concrete task during which you had to learn new skills. Learning can happen through means such as self-study, seeking feedback from the task requester or your peers when applicable, solving problems, keeping up to date with developments in your field, or taking an online tutorial or attending a training workshop. Please keep this broad view of learning in mind when considering your responses.

There are no right or wrong responses to these questions. Please tell us how you typically behave, rather than how you feel you should behave.

Your individual data will not be shared with MTurk.

Questionnaires with missing responses will be unusable for research and therefore ineligible for payment.

Informed consent

By selecting 'Yes' below you consent to participating in this study.

All information you provide will be treated as confidential. Your responses will be shared only with the research team at the Leibniz University of Hannover and Copenhagen Business School, and with representatives of CEDEFOP, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, which is funding the research. Any personally identifiable data will be securely deleted once the study is completed and the data no longer needed. Overall findings from the survey will be published in research reports and articles, but you or your responses will not be identified individually. For further information on CEDEFOP contact details and how your personal data is protected during CEDEFOP-funded projects, please refer to their website. If you have any other questions about this research, please contact Ujwal Gadiraju (gadiraju@L3S.de).

(1). I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY:

☐ Yes

(2). Which country do you live in?

Select ▼

(3). What types of HITs (human intelligence tasks) listed below most closely describe the types of tasks you complete on Amazon Mechanical Turk? Check all options that apply.

- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are mostly routine (i.e. ordinary pieces of work that follow a regular, unvarying, habitual, unimaginative, or rote pattern)
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are highly reliant on formal processes (e.g., clear definition of input and output, structured interactions with clients, etc.)
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk don't give me freedom to decide what should be done in any particular situation
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are mostly systematically repeatable
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are highly reliant on formal standards (e.g., standards of minimum quality, technical standards)
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk rely on the combination of knowledge from different fields of expertise or disciplines
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are improvisational/creative
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are highly reliant on my deep and specific expertise/personal judgement
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are dependent on collaborating with others
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk are highly reliant on my general expertise/individual experiences
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk involve solving problems that have no obvious correct answer
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk involve dealing with problems I have not met before
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk require unique ideas/solutions to problems
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk require me to use a variety of skills to complete the work
- ☐ My HITs on MTurk require me to use a number of complex, high-level skills

(4). Which types of HITs do you typically complete on Amazon Mechanical Turk? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Content Access: these HITs require you to simply access some content. For example, 'Click on the link and watch the video', or 'Read the information by following the website link'. In these HITs the workers are merely asked to consume some content by accessing it, but do nothing further.
- ☐ Content Creation: such HITs usually require you to generate new content for a document or website. They include authoring product descriptions or producing question-answer pairs. For example, 'Suggest names for a new product', or 'Translate the following content into German'.
- ☐ Information Finding: such HITs delegate the process of searching to satisfy one's information need to you. For example, 'Find information about a company in the UK', or 'Find the cheapest air fare for the selected dates and destinations'.
- ☐ Interpretation and Analysis: such HITs rely on your interpretation skills during task completion. For example, 'Choose the most suitable category for each URL', or 'Categorize reviews as either positive or negative'.
- ☐ Survey: these HITs are typically designed as a set of questions that need to be answered by you, often taking the form of a questionnaire.
- ☐ Verification and Validation: these are HITs that require you to either verify certain aspects as per the given instructions, or confirm the validity of various kinds of content. For example, 'Is this a Spam Bot? : Check whether the twitter users are either real people or organisations, or merely spam twitter user profiles', or 'Match the names of personal computers and verify corresponding information'.

(5). Thinking about the HITs you completed on Amazon Mechanical Turk over the last three months, to what extent have you developed the skill categories listed below through your work on the platform?

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Please keep a broad definition of learning in mind. You can develop a skill category through various learning activities ranging from on-the-job learning to formal educational courses.

Through my work on MTurk ...	Never (I have not developed this skill category)	Rarely (I have developed this skill category on a few occasions)	Frequently (I have developed this skill category weekly)	Very frequently (I have developed this skill category daily)
I developed core skills in my area of specialty (e.g., searching and finding information on the Web, content creation or validation, writing reviews, image transcription, annotation, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed foreign language skills (e.g., through completing HITs in different languages)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed skills in obtaining work on platforms like MTurk (e.g., building and maintaining a high reputation, learning to use MTurk and complete HITs effectively, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed my learning skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed skills in being an online worker (e.g., how to earn a livelihood online, taxation, working alone, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed my communication skills (e.g., conversational exchanges with HIT requesters, conversing on MTurk related forums, handling cultural differences, email etiquette, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed my personal dispositions (e.g., confidence, creativity, resilience, independence, flexibility, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed my organisational skills (e.g., time management, project management, discipline)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed my analytical skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I developed my computer literacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please list any other skills which you may have developed through your work on Amazon Mechanical Turk below.

(6). Thinking about the HITs you completed on Amazon Mechanical Turk over the last three months, which of the skills listed below did you already have before joining Amazon Mechanical Turk and have been useful for your work on the platform? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Core skills in my area of specialty (e.g., searching and finding information on the Web, content creation or validation, writing reviews, image transcription, annotation, etc.)
- ☐ Foreign language skills
- ☐ Skills in obtaining work on platforms like MTurk (e.g., building and maintaining a high reputation, learning to use MTurk and complete HITs effectively, etc.)
- ☐ Learning skills
- ☐ Skills in being an online worker (e.g., how to earn a livelihood online, taxation, working alone, etc.)
- ☐ Communication skills (e.g., conversational exchanges with HIT requesters, conversing on MTurk related forums, handling cultural differences, email etiquette, etc.)
- ☐ Personal dispositions (e.g., confidence, creativity, resilience, independence, flexibility, etc.)
- ☐ Organisational skills (e.g., time management, project management, discipline)
- ☐ Analytical skills
- ☐ Computer literacy

(7). During the last month, which of the discussed skill categories have you spent time on to further develop/improve? Please select all options that apply

- ☐ Core skills in my area of specialty (e.g., searching and finding information on the Web, content creation or validation, writing reviews, image transcription, annotation, etc.)
- ☐ Foreign language skills
- ☐ Skills in obtaining work on platforms like MTurk (e.g., building and maintaining a high reputation, learning to use MTurk and complete HITs effectively, etc.)
- ☐ Learning skills
- ☐ Skills in being an online worker (e.g., how to earn a livelihood online, taxation, working alone, etc.)
- ☐ Communication skills (e.g., conversational exchanges with HIT requesters, conversing on MTurk related forums, handling cultural differences, email etiquette, etc.)
- ☐ Personal dispositions (e.g., confidence, creativity, resilience, independence, flexibility, etc.)

- ☐ Organisational skills (e.g., time management, project management, discipline)
☐ Analytical skills
☐ Computer literacy

(8). I enjoy working on Amazon Mechanical Turk

- ☐ Not at all true
☐ Sometimes true
☐ True most of the time
☐ Always true

(9). Within the last 3 months, how frequently have you undertaken the following learning activities as part of your work on Amazon Mechanical Turk?

	Never (I have not undertaken this learning activity)	Rarely (I have undertaken this learning activity on a few occasions)	Frequently (I have undertaken this learning activity weekly)	Very frequently (I have undertaken this learning activity daily)
Acquiring new information to complete my HITs on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working alone to complete my HITs on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaborating with others to complete my HITs on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Following new developments on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing HITs that are new to me on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Asking others for advice regarding work on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending a training course/ workshop to acquire knowledge/ skills for my work on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taking free online courses or webinars (e.g., Coursera, edX) to acquire knowledge/ skills for my work on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using paid online tutorials (e.g., Lynda) to acquire knowledge/ skills for my work on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reading articles/ books to acquire knowledge/ skills for my work on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observing/ replicating other people's strategies for my work on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding a better way to do a HIT by trial and error on MTurk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thinking deeply about my work on MTurk (e.g., what I could do better next time)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Receiving feedback on my work on MTurk (e.g., from task requesters or other workers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning from online community forums (e.g., mturkforum.com, or other MTurk community forums)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(10). Please tell us about the **specific strategies** you use to **plan, carry out and reflect on your learning** for your work on Amazon Mechanical Turk. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Tell us how you typically behave, rather than how you think you should behave.

Please indicate how well the following statements describe your typical behaviour on Amazon Mechanical Turk:

	Not at all true	Sometimes true	True most of the time	Always true

(11). How often do you do the following activities?

	Never	Rarely	Once a week	Several times a week	Once a day	Several times a day
Participate in an online forum related to online work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicate with other online workers face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicate with other online workers via online social networks, instant messaging, SMS or email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use online social networks to communicate with friends and family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(12). How do you feel about the potential to work for yourself? Please read the statements below and indicate how much you agree or disagree with each.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I want to be my own boss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider working for myself to be a better option than formal employment with a company	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be proud to tell my friends and family that I am an entrepreneur	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is not a lot of risk involved in working for yourself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I see myself as a freelancer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(13). Are you a member of a community, forum, or group related to your online work or Amazon Mechanical Turk?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify which community(ies), forum(s), or group(s). Enter 'No' if you are not a member.

(14). What is your year of birth (please enter in the format YYYY; for example '1980')?

(15). What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Other

(16). What was your nationality at birth?

(17). What is your current full-time profession and the corresponding job title? If you have more than one profession list all that apply.

(18). What is your main employment status? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Freelancer/self-employed
☐ Employed full-time in a regular job next to my work on MTurk
☐ Employed part-time in a regular job next to my work on MTurk
☐ Retired
☐ Disabled/Not able to work
☐ Student
☐ Homemaker

☐ Unemployed

Other (please specify) :

(19). How many years of work experience do you have in total, including work on Amazon Mechanical Turk? This question is about all of your work experience, including in traditional jobs, on online platforms or apps.

- ☐ 1 year or less
- ☐ Between 13 months and 3 years
- ☐ Between 37 months and 10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

(20). How long have you been working on Amazon Mechanical Turk?

- ☐ 6 months or less
- ☐ Between 7 and 12 months
- ☐ Between 1 and 2 years
- ☐ Between 2 and 3 years
- ☐ Between 3 and 10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

This is an attention check question. Please select the fourth option.

- ☐ MTurk was founded in 1987.
- ☐ MTurk was founded in 2010.
- ☐ MTurk was founded in 2016.
- ☐ MTurk was founded in 2005.
- ☐ MTurk was founded in 1999.

(21). How many HITs have you completed on Amazon Mechanical Turk?

- ☐ I have not completed any HITs so far
- ☐ Between 1 and 250 HITs
- ☐ Between 251 and 500 HITs
- ☐ Between 501 and 750 HITs
- ☐ Between 751 and 1000 HITs
- ☐ Over 1000 HITs

(22). Last week, about how many hours have you worked on completing HITs on Amazon Mechanical Turk?

- ☐ I did not work on MTurk last week
- ☐ I worked less than 4 hours
- ☐ I worked between 4 and 8 hours
- ☐ I worked the equivalent of 2 work days (9 - 16 hours)
- ☐ I worked the equivalent of 3 work days (17 - 24 hours)
- ☐ I worked the equivalent of 4 work days (25 - 32 hours)
- ☐ I worked the equivalent of 5 work days (33 - 40 hours)
- ☐ I worked more than the equivalent of 5 work days (>40 hours)

(23). What share of your income over the past month came from working on Amazon Mechanical Turk?

- ☐ 0-20%
- ☐ 21-40%
- ☐ 41-60%
- ☐ 61-80%
- ☐ 81-100%

(24). Why do you work on Amazon Mechanical Turk? Select all that apply.

- ☐ MTurk is my primary source of income
- ☐ MTurk is my secondary source of income
- ☐ I am unable to find traditional work
- ☐ I am unable to perform traditional work (e.g., because of a health condition)
- ☐ To kill time
- ☐ HITs on MTurk are fun
- ☐ MTurk is a fruitful way to spend time and earn money
- ☐ Being my own boss
- ☐ Following my passion

- ☐ No commute/can work from anywhere
- ☐ Control over my schedule
- ☐ More choice over the types of HITs I can do
- ☐ No office dress code
- ☐ I can earn money while fulfilling social obligations my family expects of me (e.g., caring for children or elderly family members)
- ☐ I can earn more income on MTurk than I could in traditional work
- ☐ I can gain extra technical skills in my hobby area while maintaining the stability and regular income of my traditional job

Other (please specify) :

(25). Do you consider yourself an entrepreneur?

Definition: 'Entrepreneur' means a person who organises and manages their own business exercising considerable personal initiative and taking on financial risk. Entrepreneurs include people who are self-employed, those who are a sole owner, partner or a majority shareholder of a small, medium, or large company.

- ☐ Yes, I am an entrepreneur
- ☐ No, I don't think I am an entrepreneur

Other (please specify) :

(26). Do you intend to continue working on Amazon Mechanical Turk in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

(27). What other platforms, websites or apps have you earned income from? Please enter all that apply in the space below.

(28). What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ I have had no formal schooling
- ☐ Secondary education/high school diploma or equivalent school-leaver certificate
- ☐ Some high school/secondary school, but no diploma
- ☐ Technical/trade/vocational college
- ☐ Some university/college study, but no diploma
- ☐ Undergraduate degree (e.g., Bachelor's or Associate's)
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Professional qualifications (e.g., chartered accountant)
- ☐ Doctorate (e.g., PhD)

(29). Do you have any comments about this survey or anything else to say about your learning on Amazon Mechanical Turk? Please elaborate.

Thank you very much for responding to the survey!

Submit