

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the position of *Studybot* with respect to learning resources, and various measures taken to upkeep academic integrity in its design. *Studybot* has been designed with upkeep of academic integrity and privacy as a core objective.

Definitions

Studybot: A Discord bot, which is a type of automated user on Discord (a messaging platform), capable of responding to messages sent by other users.

Quizzes: Collections of multiple choice or flash card questions which *Studybot* reads on the request of the user, which the user can respond to. These are stored in the form of publicly viewable *Google Sheets* documents (“quiz documents”) which are created by the users of the bot.

Scope of Capabilities and Responsibilities

Studybot does not store any quizzes on its own. It relies entirely on the functionality of *Google Sheets* to contain this information. This is unlike platforms such as *Quizlet*, which host their own content. All *Google Sheets* documents containing quiz data are owned by users of *Studybot*; the bot itself does not have the ability to create question banks, nor edit the quiz documents created by the users. *Studybot* functions similarly to a media player reading a video file; without content, it does nothing on its own.

Any quizzes made available to *Studybot* are therefore publicly viewable *Google Sheets* documents. That is to say, unlawful use of copyrighted course material on *Studybot* is functionally no different from someone uploading the same material on a publicly viewable *Google Sheets* document. Based on [Google Drive's policies](#), this is against their terms of service. Furthermore, given that the *Sheets* documents are public, it is possible to determine the author of a given quiz document via direct access to it.

Studybot's own terms of service additionally declare that it is the responsibility of the users to ensure the content included in their sheets does not violate academic integrity policies at their educational institution.

Therefore, given the capabilities of *Studybot*, it is not possible for users to store academic material on *Studybot*, and any form of infringement of copyright would constitute a direct violation of *Google Sheets'* terms of service.

Mechanisms of Functionality

Random Question Ordering

Studybot reads questions from a quiz in random order. This makes it highly impractical for storing information which could be used to maliciously violate academic integrity policies, for instance cheating on a test.

Studybot does not feature the ability to search for keywords in a quiz either, which acts as a further deterrent for its use as a data storage service.

Requisite Access to Discord

Studybot is accessible solely through the Discord platform. That is to say, any evaluation policies which disallow the use of communications platforms such as Discord will automatically disallow the use of *Studybot*. This includes any form of proctoring software which prevents use of external software.

Studybot behaves as an automated Discord user, and therefore should be treated in the same way as a human user when consulted for resources. This means that any use of *Studybot* during, for instance, an evaluation, should be treated equivalent as interaction with another human user.

Reporting Copyrighted Content

As per [Google Drive's policies](#), it is possible to submit [copyright infringement requests](#) for any copyrighted content seen on *Google Sheets*. Since *Studybot* reads from *Sheets* documents, any copyrighted content may be reported in that manner.

Access to Quizzes by the Bot

All quiz documents for use with *Studybot* must be set to “viewable by anyone with the link”, in order for the bot to be able to read the questions. If at any time a user no longer wants the bot to read a document that they own, they may simply make it private or delete the document.

Studybot does not cache or store any quiz information locally, so the user is in complete control of their data.

Studybot is only able to view what an equivalent human user trying to access a spreadsheet would be able to. As mentioned above, this means that any human user would be able to see the quiz documents made visible to *Studybot*, and hold the document publicly accountable (until the author unshares or deletes the document, of course).

Free Use

Studybot is, and will continue to be free to use. We do not charge money for use of our bot.

Binding Quizzes

Studybot's only data persistence comes in the form of "binding". This bookmarks a quiz with a name so that the link to the *Google Sheets* document may be retrieved later. The data structure of each bound sheet takes the following form:

```
{
  locale ID: A unique identifier corresponding to either the
             Discord server, or direct message conversation in
             which the quiz was bound.

  name:      The name given by the user to the bound sheet.

  URL:       A link to the Google Sheets document which Studybot
             may access in order to read the quiz data.

  user ID:   An anonymous identifier unique to each Discord user,
             for users to track which sheets they have bound.
}
```

Therefore, just as with a regular quiz, *Studybot* relies on reading information from *Google Sheets* to retrieve quiz data. Therefore, removal, unsharing, or any other form of losing public access to a given quiz document, even if it is bound, will revoke access to the quiz.

Permissions in Discord Communities

By default, only server administrators are allowed to bind sheets in a Discord server. This provides a passive form of content filtration. This reduces the possibility of users binding sheets containing copyrighted content onto a given Discord server.

Staff Responsibilities

Studybot staff will do their best to ensure legitimate use of the bot. If the *Studybot* team finds credible evidence of an academic offense, we will use all information available to us to track down the offender and relay information to the parent academic institution.

Closing Remarks

The information contained within this document is truthful to the best abilities of the *Studybot* team. Please contact us for any clarifications, as well as feedback for what should go on this document in the future. Thank you.