

Results of the User Questionnaire

The questionnaire was made available on the website www.questionpro.com in the first three weeks of August 2006. It was promoted on a total of sixteen different bittorrent related forums and two newsgroups. A total of 215 people completed the survey during this time.

Question One:

When did you start using bittorrent?

Less than three months ago	5 – 2.3%
Three to six months ago	9 – 4.2%
Six months to one year ago	28 – 13%
One to two years ago	79 – 36.7%
More than two years ago	94 – 43.7%

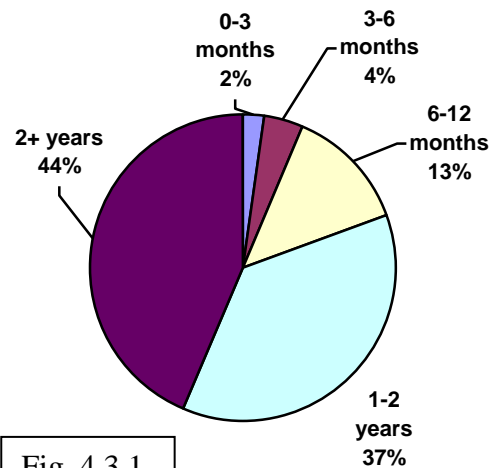


Fig. 4.3.1

Question Two:

On average, how many torrent files would you say you download each week?

One or less	15 – 7%
Two	24 – 11.2%
Three	19 – 8.8%
Four	14 – 6.5%
Five or more	143 – 66.5%

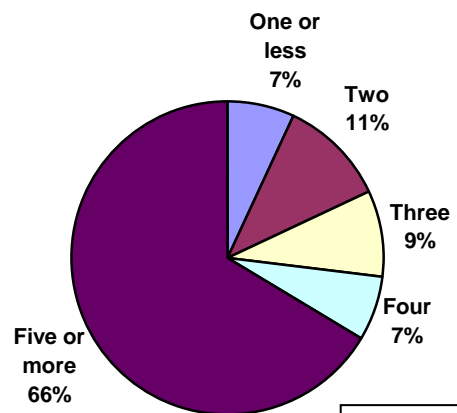


Fig. 4.3.2

Question Three:

Do you use any other peer-to-peer applications for sharing files?

Yes	112 – 52.1%
No	103 – 47.9%

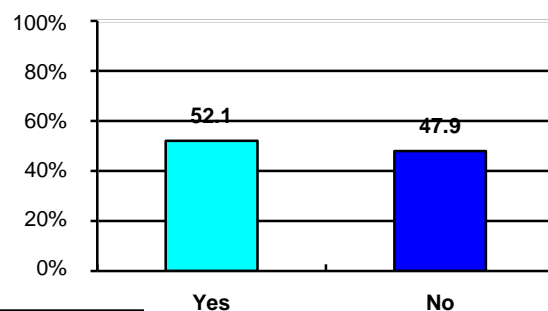


Fig. 4.3.3

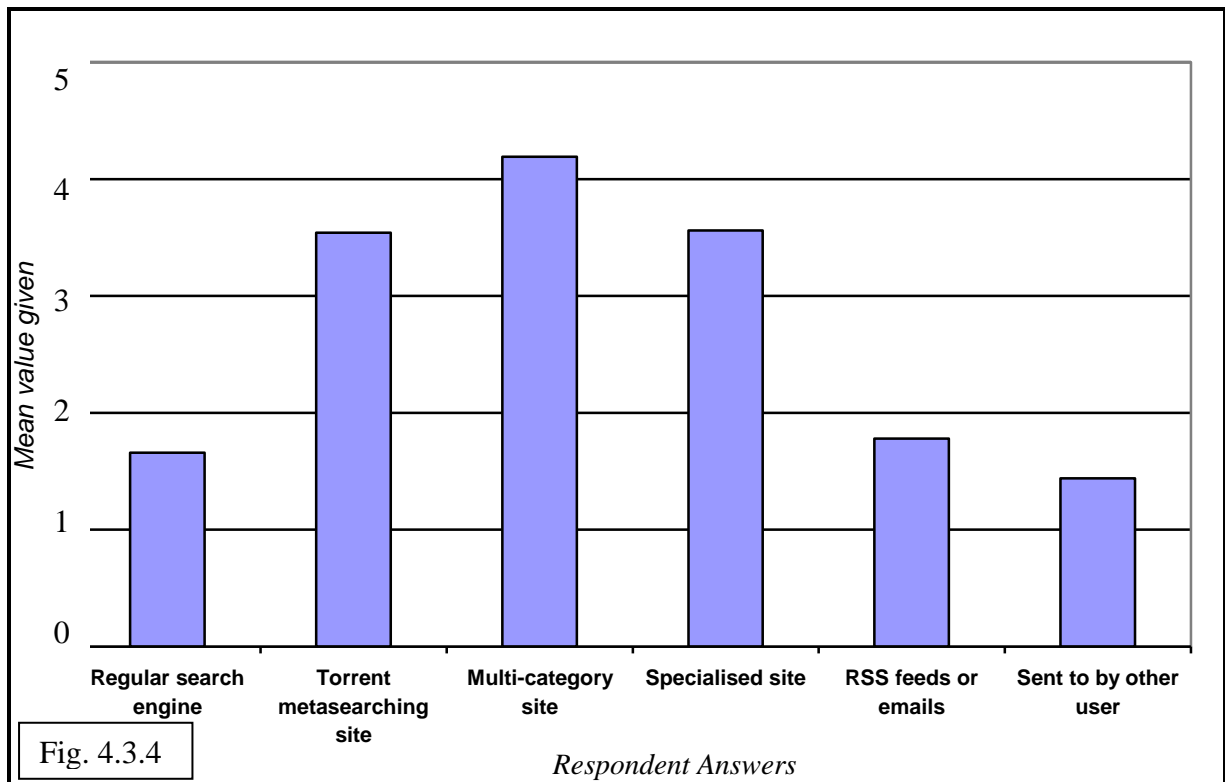
Question Four:

How do you find your torrents?

(Respondents choose from five available choices the following scale:

1. Very rarely or not at all
2. Not often
3. Occasionally
4. Quite Often
5. Very frequently

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
I use a ,regular internet search engine. (e.g. Google or Yahoo)	139 64.7%	37 17.2%	24 11.2%	3 1.4%	12 5.6%	1.1	1.66
I use a bittorrent internet search engine that indexes torrents from different bittorrent websites. (e.g. www.bittorrent.com or www.isohunt.com)	18 8.4%	22 10.2%	65 30.2%	45 20.9%	65 30.2%	1.25	3.54
I use a bittorrent website deals with a variety of different types of material. (e.g. http://thepiratebay.org or www.mininova.org)	5 2.3%	13 6.0%	29 13.5%	57 26.5%	111 51.6%	1.04	4.19
I use a bittorrent website that deals with a specific type of material. (e.g. a site that deals only with software or only with music)	32 14.9%	28 13.0%	33 15.3%	31 14.4%	91 42.3%	1.50	3.56
I find torrents through using RSS feeds or email notifications from a website.	147 68.4%	22 10.2%	17 7.9%	5 2.3%	24 11.2%	1.35	1.78
Another user sends torrents to me or sends me a link to them.	159 74.0%	27 12.6%	22 10.2%	5 2.3%	2 0.9%	1.44	1.44



If you use another method or methods to locate torrents please describe them briefly here: (Respondents answer in empty text field)

A total of fourteen respondents answered.

Seven indicated they used private bittorrent sites or trackers.

Three found torrents through forum communities.

Two listed addresses of specific torrent websites they used.

One respondent stated they found links to torrents regularly through blogs.

One respondent used a standalone program named Torrent Harvester.

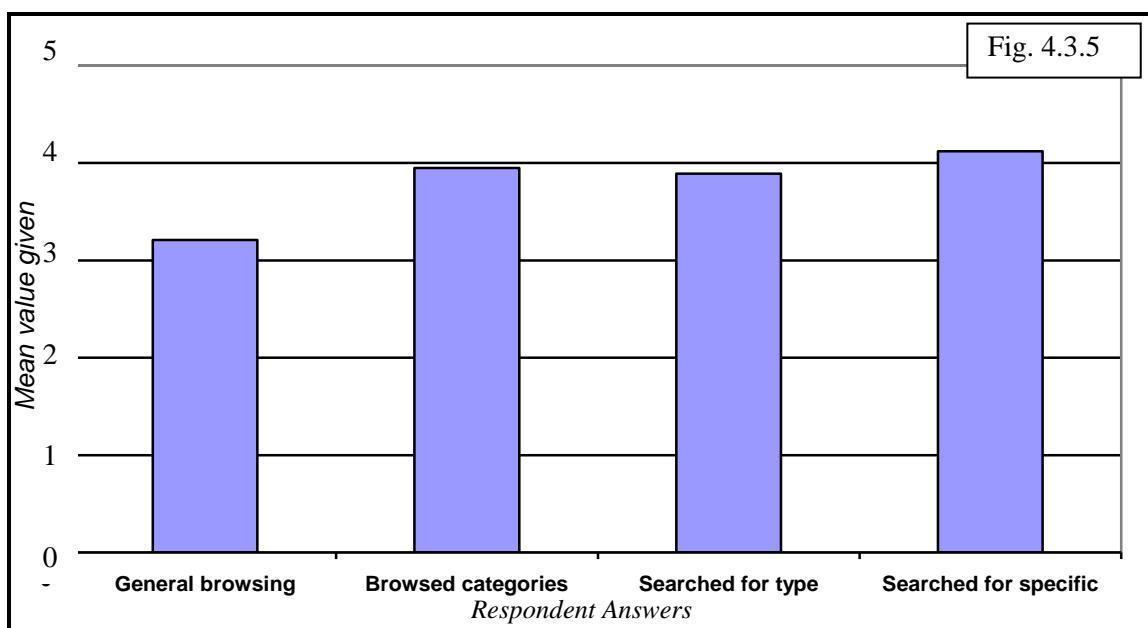
Question five:

Please consider the torrents you have used in the past and indicate how often the statements below have applied to you.

(Respondents choose from five available choices the following scale:

1. Very rarely or not at all
2. Not often
3. Occasionally
4. Quite Often
5. Very frequently)

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
I have come across torrents while generally browsing torrent websites and then downloaded them if they interested me.	27 12.6%	29 13.5%	63 29.3%	63 29.3%	33 15.3%	1.22	3.21
Il have looked at specific websites or categories for torrents that interest me and then downloaded them.	8 3.7%	11 5.1%	41 19.1%	79 36.7%	76 35.3%	1.04	3.95
I have searched for torrents on a certain type of material and then downloaded them if I was successful.	8 3.7%	18 8.4%	36 16.7%	80 37.2%	73 34.0%	1.08	3.89
I have searched for a specific torrent that I know to exist or will meet specific criteria I have set.	10 4.7%	9 4.2%	29 13.5%	64 29.8%	103 47.9%	1.09	4.12



Question six:

Below are a number of statements regarding your activity on bittorrent websites. Please indicate any that you currently take part in by ticking as many as are applicable. (Check boxes available for respondents)

I create new material to share using bittorrent and distribute torrent files for them.

Responded yes: 46 – 21.4%

I create torrent files relating to already existing material.

Responded yes: 47 – 21.9%

I share existing torrent files with other websites and communities.

Responded yes: 91 – 42.3%

I post comments on existing torrents, where this feature is available.

Responded yes: 125 – 58.1%

I participate in forum discussions on bittorrent websites.

Responded yes: 118 – 54.9%

Other (respondents to answer in empty text field):

A total of fourteen respondents answered. A full set of these is available in appendix three. Answers included:

- „I am a volunteer admin on a torrent index site, and a volunteer moderator on the associated forums
- „Run a torrent forum
- „I request a torrent file when i don't found any related
- „I suggest changes where I think they would improve efficiency

Question seven:

Do you use bittorrent to download computer software (including games)? (Respondent selects yes or no. Those answering yes are directed to complete the rest of the question)

Yes: 171 – 79.5%
No: 44 – 20.5%

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a software torrent, in addition to the title of the software itself. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when evaluating and selecting a software torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is extremely valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also a box marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
Platform (e.g. Linux / Mac / PC)	9	1	4	1	4	4	5	18	12	108	5	2.49	8.66
The version of the software	4	2	3	1	9	9	17	38	18	68	2	2.15	8.20
The language (e.g. English, Spanish etc.) of the software	2	1	3	1	7	5	6	14	24	104	4	1.91	8.93
Technical specification required for running the software	24	11	12	12	20	23	14	16	10	23	6	2.98	5.54
Information on how to install and run the software	24	10	10	16	22	16	18	20	7	23	5	2.95	5.56
The format of the software: (e.g. executable file (.exe), CD/DVD image (.iso) or compressed (.zip))	14	7	8	8	13	14	19	26	20	37	5	2.89	6.77
A description of the features available on the software	19	8	22	8	16	21	21	18	10	22	6	2.89	5.70
An external link to the software producer s homepage	46	18	34	10	17	10	12	7	3	9	5	2.68	3.77
A review of the software from the torrents creator	46	13	15	14	20	14	11	12	8	13	5	3.00	4.41
An external link to a third party review of the software	51	11	25	16	16	16	8	7	6	9	6	2.78	3.90
The year or date the software was released	23	13	13	13	24	11	19	15	11	23	6	3.00	5.50
The name of the software s developer or publisher	32	17	9	16	14	21	15	13	8	22	4	3.1	5.11
The name of the release group	24	15	11	12	19	23	13	18	12	18	6	2.95	5.40
Indication that the software is not digitally copyright protected	56	6	7	6	5	20	14	11	9	24	13	3.48	4.84

Question 8:

Do you use bittorrent to download video material? (Respondent selects yes or no. Those answering yes are directed to complete the rest of the question)

Yes: 209 – 97.2
No: 6 – 2.8%

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a video material torrent, in addition to the title of the video material itself. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also an option marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
The file format of the video material	3	3	4	3	5	7	18	30	30	104	2	2.06	8.58
Details of the video or audio codec(s) used	7	5	13	8	11	17	19	36	32	57	4	2.58	7.43
Other technical details of the video such as resolution, aspect ratio or bit rate	9	6	5	13	21	20	27	35	28	44	1	2.52	7.09
The original source of the material (TV, DVD or digital camera for example)	3	4	2	3	6	8	15	23	46	99	0	2.03	8.61
Language or subtitle details	13	6	8	11	10	16	21	28	27	68	1	2.8	7.37
A description of the material content (as opposed to technical details)	21	11	13	11	15	24	26	33	14	38	3	2.92	6.30
An external link to a third party description of the video material: (such as an www.imdb.com entry or promotional website)	42	11	21	21	21	20	16	18	14	25	0	3.08	5.11
The type of genre the video material belongs to	32	16	20	16	34	20	20	22	10	18	1	2.83	5.12
A review of the video material from the torrents creator	62	16	20	21	20	19	11	14	12	14	0	2.98	4.25
An external link to a third party review of the video material	70	20	19	12	27	17	13	10	9	10	2	2.86	3.88
The year or date the video material was released	34	12	15	17	28	19	22	25	14	22	1	2.95	5.41
People who feature in the video material (e.g. actors, presenters, comedians)	56	18	21	15	22	15	14	23	10	15	0	3.03	4.48
People who otherwise contributed to the video material (e.g. directors, writers or animators)	72	22	23	16	16	9	14	16	10	8	3	2.90	3.78
Running time	48	17	18	9	22	17	21	18	10	27	2	3.19	5.00

Question 9:

Do you use bittorrent to download audio material? (Respondent selects yes or no. Those answering yes are directed to complete the rest of the question)

Yes: 144 – 67%
No: 71 – 33%

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about an audio material torrent, in addition to the name of the artist and the title of the audio material itself. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also an option marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
The file format or codec of the audio material	0	2	2	1	4	3	6	21	26	77	2	1.7	8.92
The bit rate of the audio material	2	1	1	1	5	5	13	29	23	62	2	1.84	8.56
The original source of the material (live recording, radio or CD for example)	2	0	5	0	7	12	9	20	23	65	0	2.06	8.42
The language of the material	19	6	6	7	12	7	8	17	11	49	2	3.31	6.76
A description of the material content (as opposed to technical details)	16	1	14	7	18	14	15	22	12	23	2	2.87	6.20
An external link to a third party description of the audio material: (such as a promotional website or listing on amazon)	47	9	17	9	13	18	9	9	5	6	2	2.83	3.98
The type of genre the audio material belongs to	22	6	12	9	18	14	12	20	7	23	1	3.05	5.71
A review of the audio material from the torrents creator	45	10	7	13	15	14	11	8	7	12	2	3.08	4.37
An external link to a third party review of the audio material	56	10	9	13	16	11	9	7	2	10	1	2.92	3.76
The year or date the audio material was released	23	6	12	7	13	14	13	22	10	22	2	3.10	5.81
The length of the recording	27	5	17	10	9	7	15	18	12	21	3	3.23	5.55

Question 10:

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a torrent of any type including those previously covered in this section. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also a box marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
The date the torrent was uploaded / started	25	1	13	14	10	16	27	28	29	48	0	2.99	6.74
The file size of the material being shared	3	1	6	4	20	12	20	26	29	90	4	2.21	8.15
The number of users seeding the torrent	2	3	2	3	2	1	10	40	27	122	3	1.77	8.94
The number of users leeching the torrent	7	4	7	2	12	11	23	29	32	86	2	2.42	8.03
The number of times the torrent has been downloaded	21	7	23	11	24	19	30	29	13	36	2	2.87	6.11
Feedback or comments made by other torrent users	2	5	5	4	15	19	22	41	39	61	2	2.15	7.86
The website where the torrent file was first uploaded	32	13	25	12	22	32	15	16	16	29	3	3.02	5.42
The internet address of the tracker: (Assuming the tracker is one you are able to use)	25	13	20	17	19	23	18	22	15	37	6	3.04	5.83

If you use any other type of information when finding and selecting a torrent file, please enter the details in the box below:

A total of fourteen respondents answered. A full set of these is available in appendix three.

Five respondents said they used the name of the release group.
 Two people used the information of who uploaded or produced the torrent.
 One person mentioned a website-based torrent rating system.
 Three respondents made reference to other means of gauging download speed.

Question 11:

How strongly do you agree with the following statements? **Please select the option which best describes your opinion.**

(Respondents choose from five available choices the following scale:

1. Strongly disagree
2. Tend to disagree
3. Undecided
4. Tend to agree
5. Strongly agree

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
Torrent names and descriptions are often missing important information	14 6.5%	64 29.8%	31 14.4%	83 38.6%	23 10.7%	1.16	3.17
Torrent names and descriptions often contain inaccurate information	15 7%	95 44.2%	45 20.9%	48 22.3%	12 5.6%	1.05	2.75
Torrent names and descriptions often contain a lot of irrelevant information	30 14%	79 36.7%	39 18.1%	52 24.2%	15 7%	1.18	2.73
Torrent names and descriptions often contain abbreviations, acronyms or terminology which I find hard to understand	72 33.5%	82 38.1%	22 10.2%	34 15.8%	5 2.3%	1.12	2.15

Question 12:

How often do you have difficulty locating torrents that meet your needs? Of the choices below, please select the option that best describes your experiences.

- I generally have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs 3 – 1.4%
- I often have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs 7 – 3.3%
- I sometimes have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs. 45 – 20.9%
- I rarely have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs. 102 – 47.4%
- I almost never have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs. 58 – 27.0%

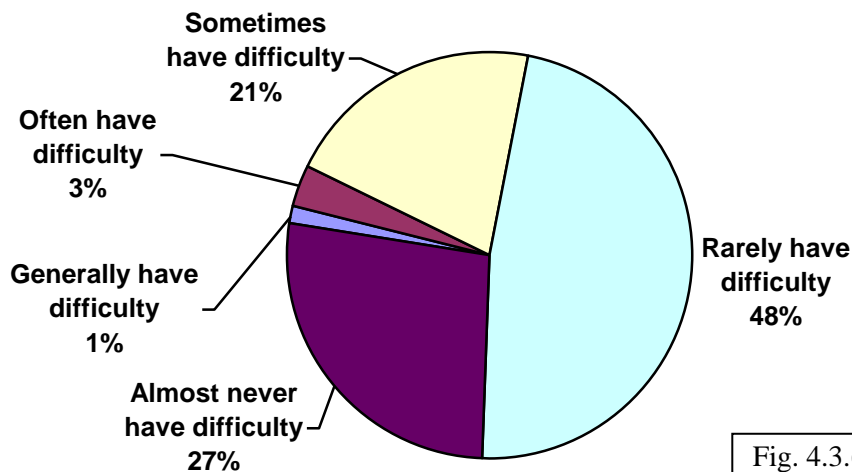


Fig. 4.3.6

Question 13:

Your help in this study is greatly appreciated. **Finally, if you have any further feedback or thoughts that may be relevant to this study, please type them into the box below.**

A total of twenty-seven respondents answered. A full set of these is available in appendix three.

Seven respondents indicated that they used private torrent websites or trackers, several citing a higher quality and reliability of metadata. One stated that on any site that allowed user comments for torrents, „bad torrents were usually flagged by users. One believed that it was very important for torrents listed on public sites to state if they required a password or were on a private tracker. One found that external links were unimportant to them as they usually „googled material they did not have a full knowledge of anyway.

One respondent had the following to say:

“I feel that, especially since every torrent poster goes to great lengths [sic] in copying and emulating the scenes' nfo's, people want to have 'their' torrent dl'ed as much as possible. In order to do that they post as much meta data as they can, trying to lure as much people into dl'ing their torrent.

So to most people the information provided may seem a bit on the steep side but the torrent poster is merely trying to cater as big of a target group as possible.”

Further analysis of user questionnaire results

Cross-tabulation of time spent using bittorrent (question one) and general evaluation of metadata (question eleven).

In question eleven respondents choose from five available options on the following scale:

6. Strongly disagree
7. Tend to disagree
8. Undecided
9. Tend to agree
10. Strongly agree

Respondents have been grouped according to how long ago they started using bittorrent (question one). The table below shows each group s mean value according to each section of question eleven.

	Started using bittorrent less than three months ago	Started using bittorrent three to six months ago	Started using bittorrent six months to one year ago	Started using bittorrent one to two years ago	Started using bittorrent more than two years ago
Torrent names and descriptions are often missing important information	3.40	3.33	3.32	2.99	3.26
Torrent names and descriptions often contain inaccurate information	2.40	3.11	3.04	2.59	2.79
Torrent names and descriptions often contain a lot of irrelevant information	3.00	2.44	3.07	2.63	2.73
Torrent names and descriptions often contain abbreviations, acronyms or terminology which I find hard to understand	3.00	2.44	2.36	2.30	1.89

Cross-tabulation of time spent using bittorrent (question one) and difficulty in finding suitable torrents (question twelve).

In question twelve respondents choose from five available options on the following scale:

1. I generally have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
2. I often have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
3. I sometimes have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
4. I rarely have difficulty find ing torrents that best meet my needs.
5. I almost never have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
Started using bittorrent less than three months ago	0 0%	1 20%	1 20%	3 60%	0 0%	0.89	3.40
Started using bittorrent three to six months ago	0 0%	0 0%	3 33.3 %	4 44.4 %	2 22.2 %	0.78	3.89
Started using bittorrent six months to one year ago	0 0%	3 10.7 %	7 25%	12 42.9 %	6 21.4 %	0.93	3.75
Started using bittorrent one to two years ago	0 0%	2 2.5%	17 21.5 %	40 50.6 %	20 25.3 %	0.76	3.99
Started using bittorrent more than two years ago	3 3.2%	1 1.1%	17 18.1 %	43 45.7 %	30 31.9 %	0.92	4.02

Creators of torrent's evaluation of metadata types

Respondents were divided into two groups - those who indicated they created torrents (options one and two of question six) and those who did not. The two groups were then compared for how they evaluated different types of metadata according to questions seven to ten. The mean value of the answers given by each group is listed here.

Software material:

Metadata type	Torrent creator's mean value (53 respondents)	Non-torrent creator's mean value (118 respondents)
Platform (e.g. Linux / Mac / PC)	9.28	8.39
The version of the software	8.49	8.09
The language (e.g. English, Spanish etc.) of the software	9.15	8.85
Technical specification required for running the software	5.77	5.53
Information on how to install and run the software	5.60	5.59
The format of the software: (e.g. executable file (.exe), CD/DVD image (.iso) or compressed (.zip))	6.94	6.77
A description of the features available on the software	6.00	5.65
An external link to the software producer's homepage	4.11	3.68
A review of the software from the torrent's creator	4.92	4.23
An external link to a third party review of the software	4.58	3.65
The year or date the software was released	5.77	5.47
The name of the software's developer or publisher	5.43	5.02
The name of the release group	5.83	5.25
Indication that the software is not digitally copyright protected	5.55	4.72

Video material:

Metadata type	Torrent creator's mean value (61 respondents)	Non-torrent creator's mean value (148 respondents)
The file format of the video material	8.92	8.44
Details of the video or audio codec(s) used	7.43	7.44
Other technical details of the video such as resolution, aspect ratio or bit rate	7.21	7.03
The original source of the material (TV, DVD or digital camera for example)	9.02	8.45
Language or subtitle details	7.33	7.39
A description of the material content (as opposed to technical details)	5.98	6.43
An external link to a third party description of the video material: (such as an www.imdb.com entry or promotional website)	5.16	5.09
The type of genre the video material belongs to	5.21	5.11
A review of the video material from the torrents creator	4.18	4.28
An external link to a third party review of the video material	3.77	3.98
The year or date the video material was released	5.43	5.40
People who feature in the video material (e.g. actors, presenters, comedians)	4.21	4.59
People who otherwise contributed to the video material (e.g. directors, writers or animators)	3.46	3.97
Running time	4.70	5.16

Audio material:

Metadata type	Torrent creator's mean value (47 respondents)	Non-torrent creator's mean value (97 respondents)
The file format or codec of the audio material	9.06	8.84
The bit rate of the audio material	8.74	8.47
The original source of the material (live recording, radio or CD for example)	8.36	8.45
The language of the material	6.11	7.13
A description of the material content (as opposed to technical details)	6.17	6.27
An external link to a third party description of the audio material: (such as a promotional website or listing on amazon)	3.77	4.08
The type of genre the audio material belongs to	5.91	5.61
A review of the audio material from the torrents creator	4.60	4.33
An external link to a third party review of the audio material	3.62	3.83
The year or date the audio material was released	5.74	5.84
The length of the recording	5.55	5.60

General Material:

Metadata type	Torrent creator's mean value (63 respondents)	Non-torrent creator's mean value (152 respondents)
The date the torrent was uploaded / started	6.28	6.92
The file size of the material being shared	8.02	8.21
The number of users seeding the torrent	8.79	9.00
The number of users leeching the torrent	7.58	8.22
The number of times the torrent has been downloaded	6.13	6.10
Feedback or comments made by other torrent users	8.31	7.68
The website where the torrent file was first uploaded	5.73	5.30
The internet address of the tracker: (Assuming the tracker is one you are able to use)	6.55	5.53