For most tools, we'll need to email authors if any of the following is true:
- You can't find the executable tool on the web
- You can't find the source code for the tool on the web
- The tool doesn't appear to work as described

Also, for every tool, we'll need to obtain permission from the authors to redistribute the tool's executable and the source code.

What follows is an email template to collect this information from the authors. Please pick and choose what you need from your authors. Please be respectful of the author's time by minimizing the number of emails your team sends and making it easy for them to respond. In most cases, authors will be thrilled that you're trying their tool, but let's not exhaust their patience.

All CC ncsu-csc-510@googlegroups.com on **every** email you send to authors. Also be sure to CC everyone in your team.

Email Schedule:
- August 27th, 2015, 9:30AM: You can start emailing authors
- August 31st, 2015. Deadline for sending your first email to authors.
- September 7th, 2015. Deadline for having tools certified as working on not.

When authors reply to you, please respond to them within 24 hours. If you don't hear from authors after 48 hours, please send them a follow up email that says "Just checking in -- have you had a chance to think about my questions?"

To: <AUTHORS OF PAPER, BUT NOT MORE THAN THE FIRST 5 AUTHORS>
Subject: Regarding your tool, <TOOLNAME>

Dear Dr. <LASTNAME> and colleagues,

I enjoyed reading your paper <PAPER TITLE>. As part of a graduate software engineering class at NC State University, my team has chosen to use the tool <TOOLNAME> as part of our class project. In short, the class is using tools from the past few ICSEs and FSEs, then putting all those tools in an accessible form (e.g., virtual machine) in central location. Our project is supervised by Dr. Emerson Murphy-Hill (CC'd via ncsu-csc-510@googlegroups.com). When our project is complete, we plan on aggregating our results (e.g., how many tools could we get working, how easy was it, etc) into a research paper.

Because my grade rests on your tool, I am motivated to get it working. I have a few questions for you before I get started.

May I have permission to redistribute an executable version of your tool? Specifically, we plan on putting your tool in a virtual machine, then posting that VM on the public internet.

May I have permission to redistribute the source code for your tool? Specifically, I plan on getting the tool building into the virtual machine (by way of Vagrant) and posting the build scripts on GitHub.

Could you please send me a link (or attachment) to the executable version of your tool? I have attempted to find the tool on the internet, but have been unsuccessful.

Could you please send me a link (or attachment) to the source code of your tool? I have attempted to find it on the internet, but have been unsuccessful.

I've had some trouble getting the tool to work… <describe what you tried, describe what you expected to happen, describe what actually happened.>

Thank you very much,

<YOUR NAME>