Technical Standards for Warrant Canaries

Note: This document is available in .doc and .pdf format.

# 1. Goal

Currently, the <https://canarywatch.org/> website has to write individual code for each warrant canary submitted. The process would be much faster if companies could select one of a few methods of posting warrant canaries. The Canary Watch website would have pre-generated code for each method.

## 2. Method

I, Alexander Goldman, former technical writer and new attorney, propose to interview the staff of Canary Watch and draw up specifications for warrant canaries. The specifications will create standardized methods of describing warrant canaries. Each warrant canary will be slightly different in scope, but we can anticipate that they will fall into categories.

## 3. Early Ideas

For example, a warrant canary paragraph on an "about us" page might be prefaced by html comment text: <!--This is a warrant canary-->. At the end of the warrant canary would be the html comment text <!--This the end of the warrant canary-->. The same method could be used for categorization.

## 4. Stretch Goal: XBRL

Twitter has filed a lawsuit to establish the right to create a warrant canary. If Twitter publishes a warrant canary, should it also notify the world through XBRL? The eXtensible Business Reporting Language was created to simplify audits and the processing of financial information, but it has been adapted to important non-financial information such as sustainability data. The initial XBRL taxonomy will be extremely simple and apply to the USA only, but we would eventually create a taxonomy that could be used worldwide.

See: The World Bank's sustainability report in XBRL: <http://crinfo.worldbank.org/wbcrinfo/sites/wbcrinfo/files/attachments/WorldBank-2014-GRIXRBLReport-Rendered.html>

The World Bank uses a taxonomy developed by the Global Reporting Initiative in collaboration with Deloitte Touche: <https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/reporting-support/xbrl/Pages/default.aspx>