Keeping the digital data safe locked has become a hot topic in the field of cybersecurity. The number of data breaches continue to rise, and we as Internet users are facing a lack of resources to help minimize the risks or mitigate the dangers to systems and networks. Therefore, the subject of encryption is a subject I would like to research for this project.

Professor Laura Black will be guiding me throughout the project research period, and I am confident that she is the most qualified instructor for this task. We both have agreed to propose that the main topic (thesis) of this research will be:

Is the government sanctioned level of encryption sufficient in keeping US citizens and corporations safe from digital threats?

This will be the central research question for my project in tandem with other specific research topics about encryption that support my thesis (see Attachment).

Proposal

The brutal attacks of hackers have induced a state of panic in citizens, corporations, and government officials alike. A serious movement has been launched by IT professionals to develop tools and resources to counterattack and pursue those who are behind such attacks. Some tools have been successful while others have not. One of the most widely supported and pursued solutions is encryption. By scrambling an encoded message or information in a way that can only be read by someone with the right key to unlock it, encryption may be the most effective way to secure our digital information.

Main research question: Is the government sanctioned level of encryption sufficient in keeping US citizens and corporations safe from digital threats?

Secondary research topics:

- Are the proposed bans on phone encryption or commercial devices a hindrance to data security?
- How can we extend the benefits of resources like GPL, TOR, PGP, in securing digital data?
- What is the importance of routers in securing digital data?

- <u>What is the importance of government funding in for digital security?</u>

Research resources

I intend to use the following resources as a way to collect information about the main research question and the secondary questions:

- Primary resources
  - Interviews featured in informative radio and podcasts
  - Historical and legal documents
  - Scholarly journals
  - Government documents
- Secondary resources
  - JSTOR Database
  - Verified articles or resources (YouTube) from the Internet
  - Blogs, newsletters, and other periodicals
  - Educational materials from IT courses I have taken already.

Format of the document

I intend to organize the content of my research by adding an introduction, glossary, discussion of the result of my research, references, and a conclusion to the body of the content.