

## **Tor Relay hosted by Nashville Public Library**

### **What:**

Tor is a service that helps you to protect your anonymity while using the Internet. Tor is comprised of two parts: desktop software you can download that allows you to use the Internet anonymously (*Tor Browser*), and the volunteer network of servers that makes it possible for that software to work (*Tor Relays*).

### **Why:**

Increasing the strength of the Tor network is a humanitarian boon. The more relays there are, the better Tor works. Hosting a Tor relay would demonstrate we value intellectual freedom and innovation.

### **Who / How:**

A Tor Relay is server side, command line program. Shared Systems team would install and administer the software. It would be utilized by people all over the world as they used Tor Browser. NPL's relay would be one of over 6,000 relays.

### **Pros:**

Tor protects the privacy of activists, journalists, businesses, military, law enforcement, and vulnerable populations around the globe. "Some States impose content-based, often discriminatory restrictions or criminalize online expression, intimidating political opposition and dissenters and applying defamation and lese-majesty laws to silence journalists, defenders and activists. A VPN connection, or use of Tor or a proxy server, combined with encryption, may be the only way in which an individual is able to access or share information in such environments," David Kay, *United Nations Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*. The server used to host the relay would also be used for other of Shared Systems projects and training.

### **Cons:**

We would also have to pay for the server space, approximately \$2 – \$20 a month. Tor occasionally receives negative press because bad actors can also benefit from the anonymity it provides.

### **More about Tor Project:**

The Tor Project, a 501c3 research-education nonprofit organization, administers the Tor network. The Tor Project receives funding from the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, Mozilla, the Open Technology Fund, the Media Democracy Fund, the National Science Foundation, Princeton University, University of Minnesota, Georgetown University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Illinois, the US State Department Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor, and individual donations.

<https://www.eff.org/torchallenge/what-is-tor.html>