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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dhruv Mehrotra and I am applying for the Summer Technology Internship. I am currently a Masters Candidate at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program expecting to graduate in May 2017. At ITP my work primarily deals with network infrastructure, surveillance, and privacy. At a time when technology seems to be outpacing ethical and legal discussions about the quantity and sources of data collected, the ACLU has been on the forefront of the battle to protect liberties, values, and institutions that are critical to the functioning of a healthy democracy. I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of that fight.

I believe strongly that one path to securing personal privacy begins with an understanding of networks from the historical to the technological and logistical. A personal requirement of the work I produce is that it is technologically transparent and helps to demystify networks. For the last year I have been working on an alternative cellular network in the autonomous regions on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, training residents to take control of their communications. The project, SayCel, recently won the Unicef Innovation Fund grant. My most recent project uses software defined radios to intercept bluetooth packets between a phone and [Snapchat Spectacles](#) in order to expose potential security exploits. While researching the bluetooth protocol and dissecting network packets we were able to demonstrate to our class how application data may be able to be intercepted by a savvy attacker.

I have a strong commitment to social justice, and as a technologist I believe that I have a civic responsibility to use my skills to correct existing power asymmetries. A final project worth mentioning is the work I did at Standing Rock. Collaborating with a reporter, we received aircraft transponder signals using Software Defined Radios. Cross referencing the received hex-codes with FAA airplane registrations we identified three unique surveillance aircraft, including one belonging to the Department of Homeland Security.

The ACLU's continued commitment to human rights serves as a constant reminder to Americans that government accountability is possible. I am very excited for this opportunity and I think that I have the skills and motivation to be a valuable member of the ACLU's Center for Democracy team.

Please reach out to me for any questions or concerns. I am applying for the New York office, though I am open to San Francisco and Seattle as well. I have included a school transcript, a resume, and a few references below.

Thanks,

Dhruv Mehrotra