DATE: April 24, 2016

TO: Elizabeth Delf, Technical Writing 327 Instructor

FROM: Rhea Mae Edwards, Computer Science – Computer Systems Student

SUBJECT: A Technical Description Document for an Overview of Cryptography
            (Project Proposal Memo #2 WR 327 Assignment)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this proposal is to gain approval to create a technical description document explaining the general overview process of cryptography. In the field of computer science, there is an area of study focused on data security among computer systems, which the idea of cryptography is based off of. Creating such a technical description document will help its readers enhance their knowledge and understanding of data security not only with virtual systems, but with common situations that can be then simply understood and processed.

CURRENT SITUATION

Cryptography is defined as the process of encrypting and decrypting a secret message from one source to another. The common idea of cryptography is studied and applied in a great amount of settings, where a vast amount of information has been developed explaining such a process. Creating a technical description document on the overview describing cryptography, will provide a through and concise source of information for an individual to read and constructively understand quickly and easily.

PROJECT PLAN

A technical description document will provide a general overview of the study and application of cryptography.

- First, the common idea of the study with be generally explained, along with any terms that should also be defined that are regularly used throughout the practice.
- Then, the document will present a simple case where cryptography is used in order to simply illustrate the processes of encrypting and decrypting a secret message.
- Finally, there will be a further information describing the information enclosed within the document to affirmably set the reader's understanding on the subject of cryptography and how such a practice can be applied.

Such a document will consists of detailed and concise descriptions along with useful graphics to enhance the experience of educating the reader. While this technical description will be aimed towards a technical audience, highly complex concepts will still be explained in greater detail also.

Any further research for this technical description document will be done through valid, high-quality, credible sources.

QUALIFICATIONS

I am a currently student at Oregon State University with a junior-level academic standing, majoring in Computer Science - Computer Systems in the College of Engineering, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The subject process of cryptography is a field of study within my overall major of computer science. Through my educational experience, I am constantly learning about the possibilities and opportunities in the work field with being a computer scientist. Cryptography is just one of those areas that through my academic studies and further outside research, has enhanced and is a part of my growing knowledge of computer science.

Also as a current second-year student at the university, I have previously taken English Composition (WR 121) and Writing in Business (WR 214), and I am currently taking Technical Writing (WR 327) learning how to create a technical description document related to my major, as an assigned project for the course. This project will enrich my overall academic experience at Oregon State University and will continue to expand my knowledge in the area of technical writing in the field.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, creating a technical description document will help provided simplified and beneficial information for its readers to easily understand and further apply to situations of privacy, which will then increase its level security overall.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to work with the creation of this project. I am excited to hear back from you about this project proposal soon.

If you have any further suggestions, commentary, or questions about this plan, please feel free to contact me through e-mail at edwardrh@oregonstate.edu.