Project Proposal

**Problem Definition**: The problem I face is to create a detailed study of ransomware in the form of a survey paper. Following the completion of this report, I then must create a presentation and slideshow that will convey my findings to the class.

**Background and Motivation**: I have only a small background with computer security and none with ransomware. I have heard ransomware mentioned briefly in a number of classes and find it to be an interesting topic. I chose this topic for this reason. After researching a number of topics, ransomware struck me as a practical and compelling one. I also considered that it is a topic that other people will find interesting, therefore a good topic to present to an audience.

**Key Contributions**: I plan on using the University’s online catalogue to look for books and articles on ransomware and computer security. I will also be using the textbook for reference. Legitimate online articles will be considered for sources as well. I also plan on utilizing online resources regarding good writing and presentation techniques, as well as the links given to us in Blackboard.

**Work Plan**: My plan to get this project done is to start by doing research on ransomware. Once I have a good understanding of what it is and how it works, I can start collecting information from some of the sources I described above. I then need to come up with an outline of how I would like to organize the information. Once I do this, I can start to write the actual paper. I will constantly reread it and alter it as I go, so that it flows nicely and is easy to follow. I plan to look at all of the articles and present my findings in a logical fashion that gives the reader an in-depth idea of what ransomware is, its history, how it works, and how it can be prevented, etc. Once my paper is complete, I can start thinking about how I would like to present this information. I will do this by first creating an outline, and doing some research on the best ways to present a research topic. Now, I can create my PowerPoint slides. I’d like my PowerPoint to be visually appealing and compliment my verbal presentation, rather than just reading straight from the slideshow.