UHC Grant Proposal—Executive Summary

**Abstract**

We’re three University of Utah Computer Science students and one Technology Law scholar who are proposing to create an online journal that examines the impact of our technology laws on the Utah community. The journal is geared toward a general audience of Utahns; anyone who sends emails or shops online should find this a valuable publication. Our goal in founding this journal is to increase community awareness and participation in the legislation of our technology laws.

**Who is our Community?**

Nearly every Utahn interacts with technology on a daily basis. Sending an email or text message, buying a product online—behind these seemingly innocent actions lie murky legal issues. We believe that the people of Utah—young and old, regardless of their level of technical knowledge—would like to learn more about their online privacy and freedoms. Armed with the knowledge that our journal provides, our readers will be better equipped to engage in the legislative process and help shape our future technology laws. To attract an initial readership, we will buy targeted Google ads to Utah residents.

**How will you use the humanities to bring about this result/change/improvement?**

*This is kinda related to Meher’s second question. So I’m going to wait until I see her response before I answer this.*

**What are the issues/concerns facing your community?**

The Computer Science community faces arising legal issues that didn’t exist within the past decade. With these new changes, not only will the Computer Science community be affected but the users of technology as well. Some legal issues in the computer science field include computer privacy—specifically Internet browsing privacy—legal protection of software, anti-piracy and copyright laws, net neutrality, and much more. Computer Science issues intersect with many areas of the law including criminal law in which identity theft and online piracy is a large concern. Additionally, corporate law is also engaged in the field when copyright laws are broken or software isn’t legally protected economically or through trademark.

**What improvements and chances do you seek as a result of your project?**

As a result of our project, we hope to bring awareness to the general public. Computer software is a huge proponent of modern society. Both developers of software technology and users of computers will be affected by the legalities imposed on computer technology. Therefore, citizens should understand the impact of legal decisions and have the opportunity to weigh in their opinion. The first objective is to bring an education and common terminology for citizens to understand the intersection between jurisprudence and Computer Science. After gaining knowledge of current legal concerns, constituents should exercise their voting rights to voice their opinions to their local political entities.