Open Source Software: Proposal and Specifications

• The social issue you are attempting to address.

I am attempting to address sexual assault/harassment issues on campus. In developing this application, it would provide a user-friendly and less intimidating way for students to report these types of incidents via a web application. In keeping track of how many different reports are filed against the same individual students can be notified to know that they are not alone and that there are other students who may be harassed by the same individual which will hopefully lead to an increase in official reports through Title IX and maintain a list of students who may pose to be a threat to other students on campus.

• The project name: Creeport

• Whether you chose Option 1 or 2 with a rationale, i.e. why you chose this option.

I chose Option 2 because I was not particularly knowledgeable about the open source projects given in Option 1 and I wanted to work on a new project rather than one that has already been implemented as I would not need to spend time learning the coding styles and concepts of the previous collaborators. I felt as if in selecting option 2 I would be able to focus on a social issue that I am more passionate about and feel as if I am using computer science to make a difference.

• Whether you will implement a web-based or mobile application. Also, specify the language(s), framework(s) and platform as appropriate.

I will implement a web-based application because it will be easier for Title IX members to access and individuals filing a report will not want to download a mobile application if they are only submitting a single/select amount of incidents. I will use Ruby and Ruby on Rails with PostgreSQL as a database to maintain the list of students reported. This will be hosted and executable on my virtual machine assigned on the TCNJ HPC cluster.

• The project idea in one descriptive sentence.

My project aims to provide a resource for students to safely and anonymously report incidents of abuse and assault as a tool for Title IX members to access through a web application.

• Discussion of why your project is innovative and interesting, and how it will help address the social issue.

The aim of this project is to allow students on campus to have a more convenient way to report incidents of sexual assault or harassment that may have occurred on campus. While Title IX is an incredibly useful resource on campus within itself, reporting an incident can feel incredibly intimidating and isolating as a majority of the options are severe and involve lengthy processes. I am aware of other students who have failed to file an official report to Title IX as a result of this, and many cases of sexual harassment will remain unnoted. My main goal is to increase more reports that may otherwise never be brought to light to Title IX members. A we application proves to be a non-threatening application where students can maintain anonymity, while still being able to report an incident. If multiple students have reported the

same individual, each student will be notified through the email provided and alert the student that other students have also reported the same individual. If students are aware of this, they will get the sense that they are not alone, and may feel more comfortable filing an official report.