

University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
March 24, 2016

John/Jane Doe
Government Official
Organization
Address

Dear Mr./Mrs. Doe,

The world of technology is always changing. This doesn't just apply to only products, but to the people too. The rapid adoption of new technologies into everyday life has never been more apparent than in the last twenty years. Gone are the days of high school students having to beg their parents for flip phones – those still in grade school are more used to their smart phones than their grandparents! And with the approaching dawn of smartcars revolutionizing the transportation industry, technological breakthroughs are set to change the way we live life going into the twenty-first century.

The digital age has given unprecedented power to the individual, so getting one's name out there has become much easier than ever before. But there is always a dark side to progress. What many don't realize is that this new connection goes both ways; data on individuals can be collected, disseminated, and even controlled at a very fine level. The iCloud celebrity leak back in 2014 is a perfect high-profile example of these kinds of individual-reaching attacks. But what happens when these hackers have larger sandbox to play in? What about when computer driven smartcars drive the transportation industry? How are we meant to protect ourselves if, by connecting to the rest of the world, we expose ourselves to this kind of risk? The answer to all these questions is cryptography.

Cryptography is our time-tested method of secure digital communication, and although it has always been popular viewed as something that could only be done by the government or big business, people know that today that is not the case. While some may prefer to let others take care of this for them, open source software has allowed the more inclined to take an active effort in protecting the data they put online.

Despite the recent publicity of the FBI vs. Apple case, the right to cryptography is more than just a right enjoyed by big business; it is the backbone of our constitutional right to digital privacy. Unless it is successfully proven beyond a doubt that the benefits of infringing upon this far outweighs the costs, our right to encrypt is a right that should not be taken lightly.

Very respectfully,

Dylan Zaragoza