

October 30th, 2015

Office of Information Technology
University of Colorado, Boulder

Dear Mr. Jones and Ms. Stanek,

The Information Technology Student Governance Board (ITSGB)¹ respectfully requests that the University of Colorado implement a practice of publishing a bi-annual² transparency report detailing the kinds of user data requests the University receives from internal and external entities such as law enforcement agencies. As the effective ISP and the primary provider of a range of IT services for over 30,000 students, faculty, and staff on the Boulder campus alone, the University should follow the best practices set by similar organizations in publishing regular reports on the quantity, nature, and response to any official requests for the student, faculty, and staff data retained by the University.³ The University of California, Berkeley recently made headlines when it started issuing such reports, and the University of Colorado should follow suit.⁴

Ensuring that the students, faculty, and staff that rely on the IT services the University provides have access to information regarding how the University handles request for their data is an important tenant to ensuring the security and privacy of these users. Regular publication of the statistics regarding such requests is a simple and cost efficient way to share such data. The University of Colorado such further show its dedication to ensuring the privacy and security of its user base by providing such reports.

The CU ITSGB is happy to provide additional feedback on how best to implement this request. We look forward to receiving your response on this manner.

Sincerely,

The CU ITSGB

Contact: oit-gg-itsgb@colorado.edu

¹ The ITSGB is the student-arm of the six IT advisory boards governing the Office of Information Technology: <http://www.colorado.edu/avcit/governance>.

² Or more frequent, e.g. semesterly.

³ E.g. Google Transparency Report, available at <https://www.google.com/transparencyreport/>; Microsoft Law Enforcement Requests Report, available at

<https://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/en-us/transparencyhub/>, Comcast Third Transparency Report, available at <http://corporate.comcast.com/images/Third-Comcast-Transparency-Report-2H2014-FINAL-02022015.pdf>.

⁴ April Glaser, *Every College Should Issue a Transparency Report About Government Requests for Student Data*, September 18th, 2015; UC Berkeley, *bConnected Transparency Report*, available at <https://bconnected.berkeley.edu/privacy-security/uc-berkeley-bconnected-transparency-report>.