Purchase Proposal: Hack HD

After discussing many different options for cameras, and analyzing them in our Pugh Analysis, we have narrowed down our options to a few cameras that will work well for our camera array. One of the cameras remaining is the Hack HD. We would like to order two Hack HDs for testing purposes, so that we can get a good feel for the camera and ensure that it will, in fact, work well for us before making a final decision.

The Hack HD is very cheap, and only costs $160. It runs on a USB 2.0 interface, which we are familiar with, and is much cheaper than a similar camera with a USB 3.0 interface would cost. A USB 2.0 interface may run slower, but this could be easily improved with a hub that uses a USB 3.0 interface with the computer. The camera captures color videos, which our users said was important for security purposes. Most importantly, the Hack HD allows compression in the camera, using the H.264 codec. Most of the cameras we’ve looked at do not include this feature, which is one reason the Hack HD stands out from the rest. Compression in the camera produces smaller file sizes, saving valuable storage space, which will be extremely important when we are dealing with complicated software and many different camera streams at once.

The Hack HD camera can be purchased online at <https://www.sparkfun.com/products/11418>. It is important for us to purchase these cameras so that we can begin working with them to ensure that we can get software to work with them and make sure there are no problems with the cameras or important specifications we may have overlooked. We would like to order two so that we can see how the cameras work together, and try building a small array with them. It is important to make sure we can get the cameras streaming on the computer at the same time, and so that we can look into stitching the videos together, which is not something we can find out from simply reading about the camera online. Researching specifications can only take us so far, and we have reached the point where we need experience with the cameras in order to make a decision.