

Cyber Clinic 2025: The First 50 Hours

Reflection #1

The first 50 hours of the Cyber Clinic 2025 program have been eye-opening experience for me. The collaboration between students, faculty, and industry leaders makes the process not only rewarding, but also comforting. It creates a supportive environment that allows us to critically think about complex ideas, challenges, and issues in the cybersecurity area. The hands on nature of the clinic allows us to see how integrated the approach is when solving cybersecurity problems and addressing concerns that small businesses may possess.

In the first week, we received instruction on the importance ethics and risk management in cybersecurity. Ethical practices should always be performed and considered when taking cybersecurity measures, as sensitive information or proprietary data may be involved. Being ethical and operating within the law is non-negotiable, but one must remember that they two different things. All lawful actions are not necessarily ethical, so we must keep in mind that both need to be upheld. Risk management relies on two important metrics: the likelihood of an attack and the impact of a potential attack. As consultants, we always have to think about these metrics when assessing how to create and implement plans for businesses seeking our help.

The Design Thinking activity with Dr. Baaki was highly informative and beneficial. It forced us to think about cybersecurity issues and consultations in a way that empowers us to be creative, thoughtful, and considering of other's ideas. The Design Jam provided us a framework, The Design and Possibility Spaces Framework, to start from an angle of approach that I did not

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initially think of. Knowing that there are steps to address the needs and concerns our client's may have helps by showing us that starting at the basics is key. Empathize, define, ideate, prototype, test, and space are the steps in the framework to design a good cybersecurity posture for the companies we will be assigned. Having empathy for the company and their work enable us to feel apart of their cause which fosters meaningful relationships and communication with them. Being able to define what their needs and concerns are and being empathetic to their cause is essential to creating ideas that encompass their cybersecurity goals in a deliberate manner.

In summary, Cyber Clinic has been a great tool in understanding the consultation process for our internships. Upholding ethical standards is vital to the process of risk management. This invaluable program emphasizes the importance of teamwork and collaboration, thinking outside-of-the-box, and the organized structure necessary to contribute to a more secure and resilient digital landscape for our assigned companies. So far, this class has proven to be an asset to my future employment in cybersecurity.