

The Complexities of Consulting

Reflection #2

In the second set of 50 hours in our internship, we accomplished tasks that will further benefit our work as cybersecurity leaders performing risk assessments and risk analysis. The mentoring we receive from Greg Tomchick, CEO of Valor Cybersecurity, is integral for success in the class and is a valuable gift to our future careers in cybersecurity. The discussion with David Price, IT Cybersecurity Specialist with CISA, highlighted the importance of cybersecurity best practices and procedures and reinforced the need for highly skilled employees in the workforce. With these resources, we can fully understand the challenges and issues that may arise in performing risk assessments in the coming years.

Greg's lectures on risk assessment properly prepared us to go out into the community and reach out to local businesses that may need assistance in areas of cybersecurity. His knowledge and experience demonstrate the ability to actively engage with potential clients to work on their behalf. His Top 10 Digital Security Checklist is a great resource to implement when speaking with local business leaders; this document is a clear and concise roadmap in navigating the assessment process. Speaking with local business leaders gave us practice in professional demeanor, identifying needs of companies, and providing services that companies may or may not realize they need. We were able to highlight that threats come in all shapes and sizes, and that no one is exempt from potential vulnerabilities and exploitations. The businesses we communicated with were very appreciative and understand we are considering their best interest.

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David Price's lecture on the nature of his job at CISA highlights how the work we do as cybersecurity consultants can be rewarding and helpful to society at large. As a government agency, they seek to spread awareness and share their CISA CPG standards to create uniformity with the entities they help. He displayed the importance of securing infrastructures used by citizens and carefully conveyed how threats against them affect homeland security.

Also, we had our first meeting with our clients, CM Technology, which was assigned to us for the remainder of the semester. The prior lessons we received made this a seamless experience that produced impressive results. I had a wonderful time getting to know our clients and learning about how we can meet the needs of their business. With the questionnaire I created and the Valor Top 10 Digital Security Checklist, we were more than prepared to get started and identify areas of concern related to their company. They are incredibly open to our ideas and willing to collaborate with us to complete our assessment.

Overall, this internship clinic has been eye opening experience and thoroughly enjoyable. The process of providing cybersecurity risk assessments as a community service was rewarding; I gained experience from practice and companies received free services that will help them in the long-term. With Professor Duvall's vast resources and Greg Tomchick's mentoring, I feel confident in the trajectory of my internship and the work I will be performing for Valor Cybersecurity and CM Technology Inc.