

Reflection #2

Myrna Santiago

Old Dominion University

CYSE 368_25100: Cybersecurity Internship

Teresa Duvall

March 10, 2025

After finishing my second set of 50 hours at my internship, I returned to my Memorandum of Agreement to review my learning objectives. I used these goals as a benchmark for analyzing my learning experience at my internship and was pleasantly surprised by the results.

My first objective was to learn the proper procedures for integrating cybersecurity into naval systems. Looking back on my internship, I have learned many of the procedures necessary for this integration. It is a meticulous process with a steep learning curve, but it is satisfying when the system responds in the intended way. I will compare it with precise tuning, as any missed step will create many problems. The carefully crafted steps help our Navy work as it should.

My second objective was to learn to reconcile existing network systems with new cybersecurity frameworks to improve risk management. This learning goal has been both frustrating and rewarding. It is frustrating because many legacy systems were created with functionality in mind but lack security. This can be a great mountain to surpass when trying to add security and the system breaks. It is rewarding once you bypass all the huddles that the system throws at you and can make it more secure. There have been many trial and error days, some extended for weeks until the team could fix the problem.

My third objective was to learn how education meets the workplace. The practical education that I acquired at ODU was of great importance and helped me during my internship. Even today, I can use my education to finish tasks at work and propose ideas that can help during frustrating days. I am also learning things at work that I have used recently to complete assignments at ODU. All in all, it was a pleasant and satisfying experience.

Finally, my last objective was to learn how to function in a fast-paced environment to address cybersecurity concerns and challenges daily. Working in a secure environment requires a lot of discretion and care, and learning from my peers and mentors has been of great help to me. Prioritization is key in this environment, and learning helps a great deal to control stress induced by being overwhelmed.

Everything has been a great learning experience, and seeing progress through these reflections has helped me understand how much I love what I am doing now. It has also helped me create a clearer path for my future learning and concentrate on which area of cybersecurity I want to specialize in. Cybersecurity requires a lifetime of learning and I am preparing for it