

Brandon Sutton

Professor Duvall

9/19/25

Toano Contractors reflection #1

So far, I've spent about fifty hours at my internship with Toano Contractors, working in IT and cybersecurity. Even though that's not a huge amount of time, I've already learned a lot about how technology supports a business day to day. Going in, I wasn't really sure what kind of work I'd be doing, but the experience has been a mix of problem solving, figuring things out as you go, and applying some of what I've learned at school.

One of the first things that just stood out to me was the amount the company relies on Samsung tablets. At first, I would have never imagined that a construction company would be so tablet-heavy, but really, it makes a lot of sense. It's used by workers to coordinate projects, schedules, and data out in the field. Instead of carrying binders or stacks of paper, they have it all updated and stored on there. That accelerates things, but that also raises security issues. I've been able to see how important it is to make sure the devices are secure and the information on them doesn't get into the wrong hands. Even little things, like making sure updates are installed or files are backed up, make a big difference.

The other big part of my internship so far has been building computers for employees. Some workers in the office needed new machines, and I was able to build

systems for them. I had built computers before as a hobby but building computers for other people in a professional setting felt unusual. I needed to take into account what each person actually needed, not necessarily what I would want in a machine. Some of the employees needed computers that would be able to handle more software, and others just needed something that would suffice for emails and office programs. It was gratifying to assemble all the parts, power the computers on, and know they were there to simplify someone's working life.

Installing those computers also related to cybersecurity in a way I hadn't previously understood. It's not just firewalls and security appliances, there are easy steps that matter too. Easy things like creating good passwords, installing patches right away, and including antivirus software are all included. When you're putting in a new system, you're kind of the gatekeeper at the door of how secure it will be. I realized that if you do miss those steps, you're kind of leaving the door open to problems later on.

Overall, these fifty hours passed rather well, but they've already given me a good sense of what it's really like to work in IT and cybersecurity. It's not always huge, dramatic security breaches. A lot of it is just normal things, getting things to function, building systems that people can rely on, and protecting data in plain, simple measures. I appreciate it, because it allows me to notice that what I'm doing is directly impacting people. If their computers are functioning fine or their tablets are safe, they can focus on their actual work instead of struggling with technology.

As I go on with this internship, I'm looking forward to learning more and accomplishing more difficult tasks. I know that fifty hours isn't a great deal in the grand picture, but it has been enough to get me to understand that this is what I need to be doing. It is nice to understand that what I am doing in school can actually be applied, and I'm excited to see what the rest of my time at Toano Contractors brings.