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Choosing to intern at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions wasn't much of a decision at all. During a long search for an internship during the 2023-2204 school year, I finally became successful in finding an internship at the beginning of this school year with this company. Although the position was looking for computer science majors, my enthusiasm for cybersecurity and systems administration helped in make my decision to intern for this specific role. This internship provided a distinctive chance to acquire hands-on experience, enhance my problem-solving abilities, and comprehend the significance of technology in this specialized area. Initially, my goal was to acquire hands-on experience in systems administration. I aimed to connect the theoretical insights gained in my cybersecurity classes with practical implementation. At iSportsman, I was able to oversee and resolve system problems in a vast, real-time operational setting. Moreover, I developed the skills to establish and uphold security measures for safeguarding sensitive information, and I became proficient in network management activities, including configuring and overseeing servers, tracking network functionality, and ensuring dependable communication among various system elements. Another important goal was to enhance my problem-solving abilities in a changing environment. iSportsman's operations are rapid and continually shifting, resulting in no two days being alike. This setting allowed me to improve my skills in swiftly diagnosing and addressing technical issues while under pressure. Working alongside a group of seasoned experts, I addressed intricate technical issues and adjusted to emerging technologies and changes, guaranteeing smooth integration and minimal interruption to current services. Ultimately, I aimed to grasp how technology intertwines with recreational management. iSportsman, developed by ASciS Solutions, combines technology and recreational pursuits, offering a distinctive learning experience. During this internship, I learned how technology can enhance the organization and enjoyment of outdoor recreational activities. I investigated the influence of technology on user experience, encompassing permit sales, access control, and activity reporting, and discovered the difficulties and prospects linked to creating and overseeing such a specialized platform.

iSportsman by ASciS Solutions is a technology-driven company specializing in recreational program management. Founded with the vision of enhancing the management and enjoyment of outdoor activities, iSportsman provides a comprehensive suite of tools designed to streamline permit sales, access control, and activity reporting. This platform primarily serves public lands, military bases, and wildlife refuges across the United States, making it an invaluable resource for both the administrators and the outdoor enthusiasts who utilize these spaces. The history of iSportsman dates back to the early 2010s when ASciS Solutions identified a gap in the management of recreational programs on federal lands. Recognizing the need for a more efficient and user-friendly system, they developed iSportsman to cater to this niche market. Over the years, the platform has evolved, integrating advanced technologies to better serve its users. Today, iSportsman is known for its innovative approach to recreational management, offering seamless and secure services to a diverse range of customers. The primary products and services offered by iSportsman include online permit sales, automated access control systems, and comprehensive reporting tools that track and manage recreational activities. These services are designed to simplify the administrative burden on managers while providing a convenient and accessible experience for users. Major customers include federal agencies, state wildlife agencies, and private organizations responsible for the stewardship of vast tracts of land. The target demographic for iSportsman includes outdoor enthusiasts, such as hunters, anglers, hikers, and campers, as well as the organizations that oversee public lands. By providing a reliable and

efficient management system, iSportsman enhances the overall experience for users, ensuring they have safe and enjoyable access to recreational activities.

My journey with iSportsman began with an orientation session where I was introduced to the company's mission, values, and key services. This initial phase was crucial in understanding the scope of the organization's operations and the significance of the work I would be involved in as a systems administrator intern. Although the company has been around for over 10 years, many of my colleagues would consider it a startup. The company is rather small and our team is pretty straightforward. Currently, some people play many roles to keep the company successful. Since I am an intern I have a manager I have to answer to, our Software Development Team Lead. She is a great manager who understands work-life balance, which makes it easy to work for her. Above the Software Development Team Lead, is our Chief Information Security Officer. He handles a lot of the responsibilities of our company. The management environment at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions is dynamic and supportive, fostering both professional growth and operational efficiency. As a systems administrator intern, I experienced a well-structured and highly effective management framework that played a crucial role in my learning and development.

Supervision at iSportsman is a blend of direct oversight and independent work, striking a balance that encourages initiative while providing necessary guidance. My immediate supervisor was approachable and knowledgeable, offering valuable insights and feedback on my tasks. Regular one-on-one meetings ensured that I stayed on track with my objectives and provided a platform to discuss any challenges or questions I had. This hands-on supervision was instrumental in refining my skills and understanding of systems administration in a real-world context.

The general management structure is organized yet flexible, reflecting the company's innovative and collaborative culture. The organizational hierarchy is clear, with distinct roles and responsibilities defined for each team member. This clarity facilitated efficient communication and workflow, enabling the team to tackle tasks effectively. Despite this structure, there was an open-door policy that encouraged collaboration and the sharing of ideas across different levels. This approach not only enhanced team cohesion but also allowed for a more holistic understanding of the company's operations and goals. In terms of **effectiveness**, the management environment at iSportsman proved to be highly effective in supporting my internship experience. The combination of structured supervision and opportunities for independent problem-solving fostered a conducive learning environment. The management's commitment to professional development was evident through regular training sessions and workshops, which helped me stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices. Additionally, the supportive and collaborative culture made it easier to navigate complex challenges and contribute meaningfully to the team's projects.

Overall, the management environment at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions played a pivotal role in shaping a positive and enriching internship experience. The blend of strong supervision, clear management structure, and a focus on continuous improvement created an ideal setting for professional growth and skill development.

During my internship at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions, I had the opportunity to apply and expand my cybersecurity skills in a real-world environment, which was invaluable for my professional development. Here's an overview of how my knowledge and skills in cybersecurity were utilized and enhanced throughout the internship:

Before starting the internship, I had a solid foundation in several key areas of cybersecurity. I was well-versed in concepts such as network security, threat detection and prevention, cryptography, and secure software development. My coursework provided me with a theoretical understanding of these topics, and I also completed various hands-on projects, such as setting up firewalls, conducting vulnerability assessments, and implementing encryption protocols. These skills were crucial, allowing me to hit the ground running when I joined the iSportsman Informational Security Team.

One of the primary responsibilities I had during the internship was managing and securing the company's network infrastructure. This involved monitoring network traffic for any unusual activity, updating and configuring security tools, and ensuring that all systems were compliant with the organization's security policies. This task required me to apply my prior knowledge of network security and threat detection in a practical setting. Additionally, I gained experience using advanced security tools and software that were new to me, such as intrusion detection systems (IDS) and security information and event management (SIEM) systems. Another significant aspect of my internship was learning to respond to and manage security incidents. I participated in the company's incident response team, where I was involved in identifying, analyzing, and mitigating various cybersecurity threats. This hands-on experience was particularly enlightening, as it highlighted the importance of a structured and well-coordinated approach to incident response. I learned how to document incidents, conduct root cause analysis, and implement measures to prevent future occurrences. This experience deepened my understanding of the practical challenges associated with incident management and the critical role that timely and effective responses play in maintaining organizational security. Additionally, I had the opportunity to work on a project aimed at enhancing the security of iSportsman's web applications. This project involved conducting penetration testing to identify potential vulnerabilities, analyzing the results, and recommending appropriate remediation measures. While I had theoretical knowledge of penetration testing, this project allowed me to apply those concepts in a real-world context and gain hands-on experience with various testing tools and techniques. It also underscored the importance of secure software development practices and the need for continuous testing and improvement to safeguard against emerging threats.

Overall, my on-the-job experience at iSportsman significantly enhanced my understanding of cybersecurity. It bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, providing me with a comprehensive view of the complexities and nuances of the field. I gained a deeper appreciation for the dynamic nature of cybersecurity, the importance of proactive measures, and the value of continuous learning and adaptation to stay ahead of potential threats. This internship not only strengthened my existing skills but also equipped me with new tools and techniques that will be invaluable as I advance in my career.

The curriculum at Old Dominion University (ODU) played a significant role in preparing me for my internship at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions. The comprehensive coursework and hands-on projects provided a strong foundation that directly translated into practical skills and knowledge used during my internship. The ODU curriculum covered a broad range of cybersecurity topics, including network security, cryptography, ethical hacking, and secure software development. These courses provided me with a solid theoretical understanding, which was crucial when applying these concepts in a real-world setting. For instance, the network security course equipped me with the knowledge to monitor and secure the network infrastructure at iSportsman, while the ethical hacking and penetration testing classes gave me the skills needed to identify and address vulnerabilities in web applications. One of the most significant connections between my academic learning and the internship was the practical application of incident response techniques. At ODU, I learned about incident response strategies, including how to identify, analyze, and mitigate cybersecurity threats. This theoretical knowledge proved invaluable during my internship, where I participated in the incident response team. The experience of handling actual security incidents reinforced what I had learned in school and provided a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in real-time threat management. The curriculum also emphasized the importance of teamwork and collaboration, which was a critical aspect of my internship experience. Group projects and lab exercises at ODU taught me how to work effectively with others, share responsibilities, and leverage diverse perspectives to solve complex problems. These skills were directly applicable during my internship, where I collaborated with a team of professionals to tackle various cybersecurity challenges. While the ODU curriculum prepared me well in many areas, there were also experiences during my internship that revealed new concepts and techniques. For example, I gained hands-on experience with advanced security tools like intrusion detection systems (IDS) and security information and event management (SIEM) systems, which were not covered in depth in my coursework. Additionally, the dynamic and fast-paced environment at iSportsman exposed me to the practical challenges of maintaining security in a large-scale operational setting, highlighting the importance of adaptability and continuous learning.

Overall, the ODU curriculum provided a robust foundation that prepared me well for the demands of the internship. The connections between academic learning and practical application were evident, and the experiences I gained during the internship have further enriched my understanding of cybersecurity, equipping me with valuable skills and insights for my future career.

Deciding to intern at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions was a strategic move driven by my passion for cybersecurity and systems administration, alongside my curiosity about how advanced technology is integrated into recreational program management. This internship offered a unique opportunity to gain practical experience, develop my problem-solving skills, and understand the role of technology in this specialized field. My internship provided extensive hands-on experience in systems administration, which was exactly what I hoped to achieve. I managed and troubleshoot system issues in a real-time operational environment, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Implementing and maintaining security protocols, as well as managing servers and monitoring network performance, enhanced my understanding of network management and security practices. The dynamic nature of iSportsman's operations regularly tested my problem-solving skills. Each day presented new challenges that required quick diagnosis and resolution. Collaborating with a team of experienced professionals, I tackled complex technical problems under pressure. This environment helped me think critically and adapt to new technologies swiftly, significantly enhancing my problem-solving abilities and reinforcing the importance of staying current with technological advancements. Being part of iSportsman by ASciS Solutions offered a unique perspective on how technology can optimize the management of recreational programs. I gained valuable insights into the impact of technology on user experience, particularly in areas like permit sales, access control, and activity reporting. Working on projects to enhance the platform's security and functionality provided a deeper understanding of the specialized challenges and opportunities in this field, broadening my appreciation of how technology can improve the efficiency and user satisfaction of recreational management systems.

Overall, my internship at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions met and exceeded my initial learning outcomes and objectives. It provided a rich, hands-on learning experience that significantly enhanced my skills and knowledge in cybersecurity and systems administration.

One of the most thrilling parts of my internship as a systems administrator at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions has been the chance to engage with the forefront of recreational management technology. I've been involved in a team that's leading the way in creating innovative solutions to simplify and improve outdoor experiences, making them more attainable and enjoyable for users. For instance, I had the opportunity to deploy sophisticated security protocols to safeguard sensitive information and maintain the dependability of our platform. This experience has provided me with direct insight into how technology can change how we engage with and oversee large-scale recreational programs. Being at the cutting edge of these technological developments has proven to be profoundly gratifying and has intensified my enthusiasm for cybersecurity and systems management.

A difficulty encountered was the steep learning curve linked to new and advanced security tools and systems. While this ultimately contributed to my development, at first, it was daunting to rapidly adjust to and excel in new technologies. The demand to excel and the intricacy of the assignments occasionally resulted in feelings of self-doubt. One more factor that I found disappointing was the sporadic absence of prompt feedback. In a rapid environment, I occasionally found it challenging to obtain immediate feedback or acknowledgment for my

efforts. This made it difficult to assess my advancement and identify areas where I required enhancement. Ultimately, there were occasions when tasks that were repetitive or routine seemed dull. Although these responsibilities were essential for ensuring system stability and security, they sometimes seemed to take away from more interesting and intellectually rewarding projects. Regardless of these difficulties, every discouraging element offered important learning experiences and contributed to developing resilience and adaptability within a professional environment.

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Reflecting on my internship, my key insight is my deep appreciation for the real-world application of cybersecurity and systems administration concepts. The experience highlighted the significance of ongoing education, flexibility, and teamwork in tackling intricate challenges and attaining organizational objectives. Impact on the Rest of My College Experience at ODU. My internship experience has greatly impacted the way I navigate my final time at Old Dominion University. To begin with, it has emphasized the importance of theoretical understanding and its application to practical abilities. I am now increasingly inspired to explore my coursework further, understanding how closely it relates to practical situations. Moreover, the practical experience I acquired has motivated me to pursue additional lab work, projects, and internships to enhance my abilities further. Additionally, my experience at iSportsman has emphasized the significance of networking and cultivating professional connections. I intend to participate in

student groups, go to industry events, and network with fellow students and experts in the cybersecurity sector. This method will not only improve my education but also offer important chances for future professional growth.

The internship has significantly influenced my future career trajectory. It has clarified my career objectives, affirming my desire to pursue a position in cybersecurity and systems administration. The hands-on experience and knowledge acquired have provided me with a better grasp of the industry's requirements and standards, enabling me to adjust my career goals accordingly. I have developed a deeper respect for the changing and dynamic aspects of cybersecurity. This understanding motivates me to emphasize ongoing professional growth and remain updated on new technologies and trends. I intend to obtain pertinent certifications and advanced degrees to boost my skills and appeal in the industry. Furthermore, the internship experience has highlighted the significance of efficient communication and collaboration in attaining success. I aim to enhance these soft skills even more, as they are vital for working with varied teams and handling intricate projects.

In summary, my systems administrative internship at iSportsman by ASciS Solutions has been a significant experience that has deepened my knowledge of cybersecurity, influenced my academic goals, and created a strong basis for my prospective career.