

**Reflection Essay**

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## **Introduction**

As we all go through our journeys it is important to take a step back and look at what we have accomplished. This portfolio and the work I have displayed are what I have to show for all of the effort I put in to developing my skills. I have dedicated hours upon hours in the completion of my schoolwork to reach my end goal of obtaining my degree and getting the job I want.

## **Cyber Security**

The first skill I have to showcase is my ability to maintain my Cyber Security knowledge of standards, practices, procedures and methods. This skill is very crucial for an Information Systems Technician. Upholding best practices is what every company demands of their ITs because that is the biggest reason they exist. I have worked diligently to continue building my knowledge and to never let my Security + certificate expire because that is the biggest artifact for showing that I have obtained the right amount of Cyber Security knowledge. I also used my knowledge of proper security posture to write a paper about the Cyber Security Analyst career. I was able to demonstrate my complete understanding of way such a job exists and the importance of having someone who can find vulnerabilities within a network. I also learned new Cyber Security skills through the use of Wireshark during my school time. Being able to use Wireshark helps me to become a better Cyber Security technician because I can properly analyze a network and make sure improper traffic is not entering a network. Some of these skills were not always easy to learn as I had never touch Wireshark before I started school, but I used my basic IT knowledge and worked my way through the system. Previously learning about internet protocol addresses and different port protocols helped me understand the network traffic that I was

looking at. No matter what the company is, if they operate on a network, they require a Cyber Security professional of some kind that must have knowledge of proper security procedures.

## **Python**

The next skill that I developed that I displayed artifacts for is for programming with the Python language. Taking this class was my first approach at actual programming, needless to say it was a bit of a struggle at first. The only experience that I had was working with VI editor on Linux servers to write basic scripts that would run backups at certain times automatically. I still understood a few of the basics when it came to writing out commands because of my previous use of VI editor. The way I worked through it all was through trial and error as well. I would write the program and test it out, if it did not give me the results I needed, then I would rewrite it until it did. My determination got me through the class and earned me a decent understanding of the Python language. With this skill I could learn to write more complex programs for servers if a job required it.

## **Linux**

This skill will always be near and dear to my heart. When I first started out in the Navy, I was a sponge waiting to soak up all technical knowledge that I could. My superior decided to introduce me to the Linux server that I would become the administrator of, and I have always been thankful for that. I was mostly self-taught for Linux originally so going through the courses for my degree I was able to use my skills and learn other proper ways of doing things withing the system. Learning the basics of Linux helped me out tremendously when it came to other cyber courses. In other courses I was expected to use a Linux machine to carry out attacks on other servers on the network. I was also expected to know how to utilize a command like NMAP on

the Linux servers to find open ports and IP addresses that I could use for exploitation. Linux is a skill that can be very useful depending on the route I want to take in life. I know there are multiple companies that utilize a Linux server of some kind on their network and could always use a systems administrator.

### **Conclusion**

During my classes I have had to bring all my knowledge together at some point or another. Whether it was using my Linux skills for a cyber operations class or using my knowledge of Cyber Security to write a paper in Cyber Law. My schoolwork has brought me closer to being the IT that I want to be when it comes to my technical knowledge. I have been able to maintain my overall Cyber Security knowledge as well as gain more. I have also been able to learn new programs that can be vital for any job I get. I have also learned new skills that could take me down a different IT path. My journey has also allowed me to build on my previous Linux knowledge and overall polish my skills.