Course Reflection

Introduction:

I would describe my experience within the cybersecurity program at ODU as an overall positive experience. I have learned so much here that will help me in my professional career. I also made new friends and learned to be more extroverted than I was previously. I am truly thankful for the experience

There are many skills that were improved or acquired during my time at Odu. I would say that the bulk of my knowledge of virtual machines and Linux systems came from courses like CYSE 270, 301, and 450. These expanded my knowledge of computer commands, firewalls, ethical hacking, etc. I also learned how to better communicate and network through my internship course or CYSE 368. It was here where I was a peer mentor and advisor to students in need. I also frequently collaborated with peers and my advisors to complete projects. There were courses that taught me how to design and implement IT management as well like IT 315.

Program Reflection:

I have learned through the various programs, incentives, and courses themselves to be more outgoing. This is helpful because I have always been shy to those who do not know me, however my time at Old Dominion caused me to sharpen these much-needed skills. I also learned how to take initiative in many situations. I was in charge of many projects in the courses I participated in. I had to take charge in asking important questions as well, which included speaking with advisors or professors because normally I would just accept my situation without speaking up, questioning, or asking for help if needed. I would also say that I have learned to take things into perspective from not only a community view, but a global one as well. My time

at the university informed me on many social issues that relate to the cyberspace that I was not previously privy to.

I have had many obstacles spring up in my path to success, and I am all the better for them. Some of these have to do with hardware or software limitations that a particular program or device had that caused me to innovate. My professors realized that sometimes things like this happen but were impressed that I found alternate routes to achieve the various assignments when this occurred. I also found programming to be difficult even at the introductory level, but the course constantly asked me to create something from scratch, which was like an ever-changing puzzle. Other times there would simply be a knowledge or skill gap that I had to overcome by pursuing helpful knowledge. Numerous times there had seemed like I had hit an impossible roadblock, but with hard work it was always toppled.

When it comes to previous courses helping me complete the course, it gets a little complicated. I completed all college courses needed for my degree that were not related to cybersecurity before arriving at ODU. These courses were completed while I was in high school through the dual enrollment program. I obtained my credits from DCC and SVCC. Because of this, it will be hard for me to link them as I do not have the assignments on my computer. However, I did learn valuable lessons from these courses. I learned how to continuously stay dedicated and improve through hard work, long term goal setting, time management skills, and many other lessons used to form the core of my working mindset. Once again, I am unable to link any assignments because they are not on this computer, and most were completed on paper in high school.

IDS 493 Reflection:

I would describe the course as a class that teaches the student the fundamentals of creating an eportfolio that is professional, accessible, and aesthetically pleasing. This skillset can be used in the future for creating eportfolios and resumes that can attract prospective employers.

I would say that this class has taught me to approach my career from an interdisciplinary standpoint. I have used many artifacts from different courses and reflected on my different experiences to create the best eportfolio I can. Also, now I am more confident in creating eportfolio because I have previously created them, but never fleshed one out to this degree.

I had to work on this course every week with different due dates for each assignment and this strengthened my determination trait. I am now able to create an eportfolio that is accessible to nearly any viewer, and I previously did not take this into consideration. The collaboration and peer review also helped me with giving and receiving constructive criticism.

I think that I designed my eportfolio particularly well. This includes elements such as the color palette, theme, font, information layout, etc. I am proud to see some of my best work represented in one place for an employer to view. I would first direct a viewer to my about me page and then to some courses with a software focus such as CYSE 301 and CYSE 270. I feel these courses directly showcase the skills that translate most to the workplace.

I felt that it was challenging to constantly iterate on my eportfolio. It was easy to add course material I already completed, but things like implementing feedback or combating technical issues were difficult. I surpassed many of these issues with constant persistence and patience.

I think with more time I could include more media such as videos and audio files. However, this has been difficult because the site will not allow for importing of many of these

file types. I also feel that I could further improve my accessibility with more time. I might even be able to improve my design with slight tweaking.

I previously created eportfolios for other courses and updated them with journal entries for these courses. I never created an eportfolio that was this interdisciplinary and comprehensive. Previous courses helped me to flesh out this eportfolio by including assignments and course descriptions from them.

Conclusion:

The courses and cybersecurity program as a whole deepened my understanding and passion for cybersecurity. I had a vague idea of what cybersecurity was and what the degree path would include, but I could have never predicted the journey I have completed. The challenges, knowledge, and friendships that resulted from it will forever be positives in my life.

The interdisciplinary nature of the coursework was something that it did not expect. I never approached coursework like this before and there was definitely a learning curve. This perspective was vital to complete the work and benefit from it the most. I had to constantly connect courses through previous skills, new skills, and viewpoints throughout the degree.

One in the cybersecurity field needs to be an interdisciplinary thinker to form the most comprehensive strategy. If a cybersecurity professional is only thinking about a vulnerability from their field, they will certainly miss vital information and solutions to the problem. This will cause the client to have a vulnerable network, for the employee to be fired, and in the worst-case information to be leaked that can cause harm to the business and/or people.

The next step in my journey after my time at ODU will be to acquire certifications and gain employment. I would like to gain my Security+ certification to learn more about my field and become a better professional. Afterwards, I will seek employment in my hometown before eventually moving to a more urban area with better cybersecurity career opportunities.