

**Personal Narrative**

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IDS 493

10/05/24

## **Introduction**

The process of selecting a career plan is unique and depends on a combination of extrinsic and intrinsic factors, family background, and social norms. With reference to the above factors, I can say that my choice of cybersecurity was influenced by the above factors as well. I had always been interested in computers and video games, which encouraged my admiration for technology from an early age. However, it was my cousin, an IT contractor for the government that interested me. Watching him work through the problems of cyberspace in the unfolding world of computers, I started to realize the significance of cyberspace as a significant and growing domain. As I grew older, I had an understanding of the need of society for proper protection of data and systems, which pushed me more into the field. In light of the causal coherence, whereby people show an understanding of how influences bear on their life story (McAdams, 2001), then it is possible to show how these influences work in a system to help me find a career in cyber security.

## **Body**

### ***Early fascination with technology***

In fact, my passion for technology can be traced back to when I was a young person when I used to spend my time playing video games on computers and fixing them as well. If I wasn't outside playing sports, I was fascinated by the operation of these devices; they often took apart the workings of old hardware just to look at the components. I played video games for fun, but I started to think deeper about technology, and I just naturally gravitated to it. I still remember when my cousin let me play his PlayStation for the first time and it sparked something in me. Recalling the episodes of my childhood, I can say that it was the beginning of my further choice

of a major in cybercrime. These events were definitive of what McAdams, 2001 called causal coherence, through which events in childhood predetermined decisions.

### **Influence of My Cousin's Career**

Now being a senior at Old Dominion University, I consider the turning point of my life when my cousin introduced me to the world of IT, especially the mysterious world of cyber security. There is a specific recollection back in my head when I see him boasting about getting a promotion because he successfully stopped a hacking attempt for a company he was working for. It was obviously a really big deal, but you could tell it was a surreal feeling because he stopped the breach of sensitive information and was able to preserve data—which, up to that point, was something that I had little thought about (Nguyen, 2013). I then thought about all the things in the world that need people to protect their information and knew I wanted to experience that great feeling my cousin felt after he stopped the hackers from attacking his company website. My mom worked in the legal system so I was around court cases all the time and they were so intriguing to me that I would ask if I could go to court with her just to sit and watch the different court cases that were being tried that day. She would take me from time to time and as I got older, I developed a keen interest in crime shows and documentaries. When I got to college, I wanted to major in IT but I then found something called Cybercrime and it was the intertwining of a technical base and a legal base and I knew that was what I wanted to go with. I was able to tie my childhood hobby of playing on computers and the fond memories of going to sit and watch random court trials with my mother. This influence was important as they were a great way for me to learn how I could apply my interests in cyber security and criminal justice.

### **The Tech boom and Career opportunities**

While moving through options when picking my major, I could not turn a blind eye to the fact that the technology sector was growing at a very rapid pace, and the demand for people in cyber security was at a record high. Each year, it appears that the news is flooded with stories about data leaks, hacker attacks, and the weak spots of the digital infrastructure we use. These occurrences raised the demand for cyber security in administrative institutions as well as individual companies. This shift in society to give privacy a new meaning also played a big role in making this decision. I also thought that choosing cybersecurity as a career path would task me within a field that has humongous demands relative to the ever-increasing region in the modern world. (McAdams, 2001) notes that thematic coherence helps individuals find patterns in their life stories, and for me, the recurring theme was clear: technology was a cornerstone of who I was as a person, as well as of what I wanted to do for a living.

### **Identity Formation and Personal Growth**

In late adolescence and young adulthood, one develops more of his or her identity and objectives, which form part of an overall life narrative (McAdams, 2001). I found his notion of identity vs. role confusion very enlightening. As is true with many of my young adult cohorts, I struggled with some level of existential limbo. It wasn't always crystal clear what I wanted to do, and I still have some natural doubt because that is who I am as a person. I just tried to focus and manifest where I want to be in life because. While breaking my mind off of distractions, it was beneficial for me to reflect on my decisions and thus give my entire focus to my major and future career path (Smith, 2017). My life influences are the reason I am where I am today and without the experiences of certain things and exposure to certain people I would have made a different decision on my intended major. My motivation to study in cybercrime sprang from my experiences in life, particularly witnessing how friends and family were affected by cyber

security. My goal is to acquire the necessary knowledge and abilities to safeguard people and institutions against cyber dangers and contribute positively to the industry.

### **Linking skills learned in school with Career aspirations.**

With the advancements in my academic life, I realized that the subjects I studied and the connections I made strengthened my decision-making. Every new class or project made me realize how diverse the problem of cyber security is – starting with the comprehension of the risks a network poses and ending with the study of ethical hacking. Such experiences made me progress from bookish knowledge to real-life experiences, making the theoretical part of cyber security real. Also, when I was developing the course portfolio alongside my coursework, I gradually realized how those skills would be helpful in future positions in the industry. In this regard, (Nguyen, 2013) noted that portfolio creation helps students appreciate their experiences and orchestrate future opportunities. It can certainly be said about me: every stage of my academic life has made me one step closer to achieving a vocation as a cybersecurity specialist.

### **Conclusion**

When reflecting upon the path I took to reach my chosen major in cybercrime , one can say that everything was connected and contributed to one another. My passion for computers since childhood, a positive example of a household member, my cousin, who works as an IT engineer, and the demand for qualified cyber security specialists in the current job market also influenced my choice of the major. These experiences played out in the framework of causal coherence, which gives structured meaning or makes sense of how I got to be where I am today. As I proceed with my academic endeavors, I am sure that this will enable me to contribute meaning to a core area of society that is so important besides being an area of fascination to me.

Looking for advancement, I would love to advance my skills more and take a position in the leading role in cyber security to contribute as part of the upcoming generation in the ever-advancing world full of connections.

## References

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