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Earth Viability Center Inc.

Reflection #3

Internship Reflection Paper

Third 50 Hours

Reaching my third fifty hours as an intern at Earth Viability Center has given me the opportunity to take more initiative and think more independently on how I can contribute to improving the platform. During this stage of the internship, I began focusing more on the identifying areas where I could apply my cybersecurity knowledge while also recognizing the areas where I still need to grow. This balance between confidence and self-awareness has been important in shaping my professional development.

Throughout this period, I made a conscious effort to think “outside of the box” and explore creative ways to improve the platform’s security and functionality. Rather than only completing assigned tasks, I started asking myself how I could go beyond expectations and contribute meaningful ideas. This mindset helped me better understand how innovation often comes from exploring new perspectives right than following instructions.

The value of self-awareness and problem solving are the most important things I’ve learned. While reviewing previous interns’ work and engaging with current tasks, I realized that

encryption is not currently one of my strongest areas in cybersecurity. Instead of viewing this as a weakness, I recognized it as an opportunity for growth. This realization helped me better understand what skills I can confidently contribute now and what areas I should continue developing. Being honest about my strengths and limitations is an important part of becoming a more effective professional.

During this period, I also became more engaged with technical security concepts after learning about the results of a vulnerability scan conducted on the platform. The scan identified two medium-risk and six low-risk vulnerabilities. One issue that stood out to me was the absence of the X-Content-Type-Options security header. This caught my attention because it can help prevent certain types of attacks, including those related to improper content handling.

In addition to security-related work, I also contributed an idea related to the platform and user experience. One discussion that stood out involved how comments should be displayed under user posts. I proposed the idea of having the comments shuffle each time the user views a post. This idea aligns with promoting equal visibility for all users' contributions and encourages engagement with a wider range of perspectives. It was encouraging to see that this idea aligned with the platform's goal of creating a more democratic and inclusive space for user interaction.

Overall, the third 50 hours have been a period of increased independence, deeper technical engagement, and greater self-reflection. I have become more comfortable proposing solutions and contributing ideas during discussions. Moving forward, I plan to continue strengthening my knowledge in areas such as encryption, apply what I have learned about web security vulnerabilities, and complete my final paper with a deeper understanding of both the technical and professional aspects of this internship experience.