

Reflective Essay

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The concept of cybersecurity as a degree which derives interdisciplinary elements and weaves them together into one focus allows for me to have a balanced background of critical thinking skills, having also the ability to apply these in my future place of employment. This program has shown me many ways in which elements such as information technology, criminology and computer science form a singular field that has helped me expand upon my academic career interests. The growth that I have experienced throughout this program has given me the ability to formulate and develop many skills, the most important ones to me being writing proficiency, professional collaboration, and Linux fundamentals. Reflecting on my time here at Old Dominion University, I have built upon these three skills solely within my academic sessions and mended them together with several different types of pieces, such as simple assignments, essays, and collaborative tasks designed to test my knowledge and abilities to excel within this program. These skills that I have devoted my time to developing here within the cybersecurity program have allowed me to prepare myself for pursuing an actual cybersecurity career, proving to myself that I have the knowledge and skillset to adequately do so.

Developing a skill in professional collaboration was something that I didn't really imagine myself doing. I have always thought of myself as a shy person growing up and the idea of working with others was always something that was unflattering to me. Although, actually having to do these things as requirements to pass shaped me into being more comfortable with it and I feel I can converse and collaborate with peers more skillfully. When it came to developing this skill of professional collaboration, three artifacts that curated this were derived from a couple classes; my final project from my Basic Networking and Programming class CYSE250, my group project from my Information Management and Security class IT417, and my assignment "In-class Teamwork: Exploring the Threat Landscape" from my IT315 class. These

assignments interconnectivity formulated my skill in professional collaboration due to the concept that cybersecurity consists of a significant amount of collaborative efforts, always needing to communicate and coordinate to come to specific conclusions. Being able to communicate different perspectives and contributions to the group assignments helped at aiding a successful outcome, such as the ideas of business funding elements fused with information security methodology in my group project for IT417, which consists of a 19 page report documenting how to fund and support a security system in Old Dominion University's Constant Hall. These same communicative efforts helped solve the struggles of completing the final project for my CYSE250 class which unfortunately had vague instructions, along with the small teamwork assignment that consisted of discussing the historical events and concepts of buffer overflow. All of these efforts helped develop a strong skill of professional collaboration between my peers and instructors to solve problems of any kind, and can be thoroughly used well within a professional employment environment.

Having a skill focused around the concept of writing proficiency showcases the impact that taking classes such as IDS300W has on a personal skillset. Writing isn't only about putting words on a paper, but also the different elements that complement each other towards making these words on paper come to a singular conclusion. When it comes to this skill, three final essays from my classes IDS300W, CYSE280, and CYSE426 stood out the most when considering important artifacts. My final essay "Understanding the Most Effective Cybersecurity Techniques and Methodologies" from my IDS300W class hoisted the idea of interdisciplinary research perfection the most, in my opinion. This class as a whole garnered the idea of combining different disciplines into one conclusion and helped me put these efforts into my other two final papers as well. This paper although, utilized interdisciplinary efforts the most,

combining elements such as history, psychology, and information technology to discuss preventative measures of cybersecurity incidents. These capabilities I have learned to have from my IDS300W class have given me a strong skill in writing, in which the ease of research and communicating this research has significantly shown.

Linux systems as a skill has given me a form of technical ability when it comes to cybersecurity. Artifacts such as “Assignment 10, Networking Basics”, “Assignment 6, File Permissions”, and “Assignment 6, Shell Script” have given me the chance to work within an actual system application, pushing me to use my best attentive approach in completing each step each assignment. Excelling in these assignments has made my motivation spark in becoming passionate about Linux systems. Artifact “Assignment 6, File Permissions” allowed me to better understand how to create groups and authenticate permissions to certain members, which is a small but significant concept to know in Linux Systems. Artifacts such as Assignments 10 and 8 had me dig a little deeper into the realm of Linux systems, having me step into the basics of networking and shell scripting in which I excelled in. This skill overall has allowed me the confidence to know that I can adequately coordinate my own knowledge of Linux systems into a professional career when needed.

Reflecting on the skills I have developed throughout excelling in this cybersecurity program has given me a boost of professional confidence, not only in the skills that I have brought to myself but also in actually applying these skills to an actual career. From this program, I have learned that collaborative efforts are key, professional writing capabilities are significantly important, and knowing technical elements such as Linux systems are essential in being a successful cybersecurity specialist. Implementing the concepts of interdisciplinary elements have allowed me to piece together certain perspectives such as computer science,

criminology, and information technology into one singular concept of cybersecurity. Utilizing learned concepts from IDS300W have allowed significant understanding of how these elements complement each other while also applying my own efforts to analyze them. Within a professional career, I have a full understanding of the importance of garnering an interdisciplinary approach to certain aspects, especially since cybersecurity is a strong subject of interdisciplinary studies.

Altogether, this program has helped me understand the strongest skills of my character and how I can piece these together to supporting a strong successful career for myself while continuously learning how to broaden these skills every day.